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AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

JANUARY 1998

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President Clinton backs all-out push for homosexual rights

■ Chief executive addresses dinner honoring Ellen

Using every public and political ploy, the Clinton administration has become relentless in its effort to overthrow traditional morality in favor of a pro-gay culture.

Clinton promised his continued support for gay "civil rights" legislation when he addressed 1,500 homosexuals attending the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) annual national dinner in November. The 200,000-member HRC, a gay lobby group, also gave a civil rights award to actress Ellen DeGeneres, who was in attendance.

Vice President Al Gore is also enthusiastic about the gay rights movement. In October the vice president praised Disney/ABC's *Ellen* for forcing Americans to "look at sexual orientation in a more open light." And in September Gore promised his help to a

cheering audience at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force annual gala.

By virtue of his speech, Clinton became the first U.S. President ever to address a gay rights group in person. His promise of support is seen as critical as House and Senate Democrats prepare to reintroduce the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) as soon as possible, either as stand-alone legislation or as an amendment to another less controversial bill.

ENDA would make it illegal for a business, including those owned by people whose religion regards homosexuality as immoral, to consider sexual orientation as a factor in hiring, promotions or firing. The legislation was first defeated in 1996, when the Senate rejected ENDA by a vote of 50-49.

"REDEFINING" BIBLICAL MORALITY

At the HRC banquet, the President promised to play his part in a bold undertaking, saying, "We have to broaden the imagination

See **PRESIDENT** on page 5

Eisner calls Disney boycotters "nuts"

After months of pretending that the boycott of The Walt Disney Company is a trivial concern for the business giant, Disney Chairman and CEO Michael Eisner appeared on the CBS news magazine *60 Minutes* to blast critics, insult those boycotting, and finally admit that the boycott was having an effect.

Richard Land, President of Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, was also included in the November interview. He said Disney had changed over the years and now supported anti-family agendas like that of the homosexual movement.

Eisner called the allegation "ridiculous." Instead, he said Disney is "pushing in our corporate marketplace tolerance and understanding, expansiveness. We are totally on to an ethical compass, a moral compass."

However, Eisner praised the Disney/ABC

sitcom *Ellen*, including the famous coming out episode, saying it was "very well done." When CBS interviewer Lesley Stahl asked why *Ellen* appeared to be promoting the homosexual lifestyle, Eisner insisted that it was a "tasteful" show, had received a parental advisory, and had been moved to a later hour. He added that "it didn't offend me" to see two women kissing on television.

When asked why he thought the SBC had voted to boycott Disney, Eisner said it was purely for publicity. "I think we're large, and when somebody attacks us it gets their agenda into the news," he said.

Stahl asked him if he could at least see the SBC's point of view. Eisner answered, "On *60 Minutes* I say everybody has the right to criticize," and sure Disney makes mistakes, simply because it's so large and has so many

See **EISNER** on page 21

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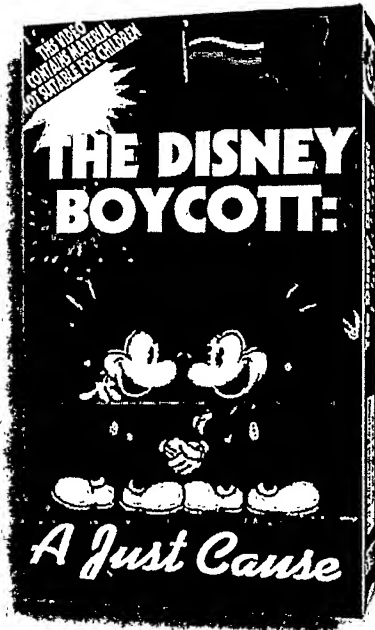
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AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 1998

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Disney/ABC gay sitcom sours

Local TV stations say Ellen's homosexual themes drive away ads

After enjoying a hype-induced popularity surge, the Disney/ABC sitcom *Ellen*, which introduced America to the lesbian subculture in its infamous "coming out" episode last spring, has now receded to a point below its former level of viewership.

Prior to the hoopla which preceded the April 30 show, *Ellen* averaged 13.7 million viewers a week. The show's rankings had also been mediocre. In its maiden season ('93-'94), the Ellen DeGeneres sitcom jumped to fifth place among prime time shows, and ended in a respectable 13th. By the end of the second season, however, it had plummeted to 39th place, sinking further to 44th at the close of the third season.

In the fall of 1996, *Ellen* began teasing viewers with the possibility that the Ellen Morgan character would declare herself a lesbian sometime during the season. But in

February 1997, even while the curiosity factor was being milked by Disney/ABC, *Ellen* was mired in 47th place.

All that changed when Ellen Morgan declared her lesbian sexual orientation in the coming out extravaganza - not surprisingly on the first day of the May sweeps. To add to the hype, the show was preceded in the days before April 30 by DeGeneres declaring herself to be homosexual in real life on a *Time* magazine cover, on ABC *Primetime Live* and on *Oprah*. Some 40 million people watched at least part of the hour-long episode, with 36 million sticking it out to view the entire show. *Ellen*'s national Nielsen household rating for the episode was 144% higher than its season-to-date average.

With the media frenzy manufacturing viewer curiosity, the sheer numbers of viewers for the April 30 show and its two follow-up episodes pulled the sitcom out of the quagmire into respectability - *Ellen* finished the '96-'97 season ranked 30th, with a viewership of 15.2 million.

The now out-and-proud lesbian sitcom
See DISNEY/ABC on page 3

Mouse hits big with gruesome film

The grisly gore-fest movie *Scream 2* stunned critics and competitors with a record-breaking opening weekend, earning Disney/Miramax \$33 million. But American Family Association (AFA) castigated the entertainment giant for pandering to the culture's violent tendencies and targeting young people with the "slasher" film.

AFA vice president Tim Wildmon said, "With all the violence that's engulfing our teenagers, it's repugnant that Disney/Miramax would entice our young people to part with their allowance money and fill their minds with such graphic violence, all in the name of good, clean fun."

Scream 2 smashed box office records with the biggest December opening ever, also setting a record for horror films. The sequel to last year's teen-favorite *Scream*, both films show plenty of graphic and excessive violence,

including stabbings, dismemberment and even disembowelment. The two movies were distributed by the Disney/Miramax subsidiary Dimension Films. Last year's *Scream* eventually earned more than \$100 million in domestic box office receipts. *Scream 2* seems on the same track, having grossed almost \$86 million by its fourth week in release. A *Scream 3* is also planned.

The two movies, like most in the horror film category since the early '70s, have been targeted to teenagers. Wes Craven produced both *Scream* flicks, and he knows his target audience well: he produced the first *Nightmare on Elm Street* film, also directed at teen movie-goers.

Howard Lichtman of Cineplex Odeon theaters, said youth spend big for these movies. "When you find a film that teenagers love,

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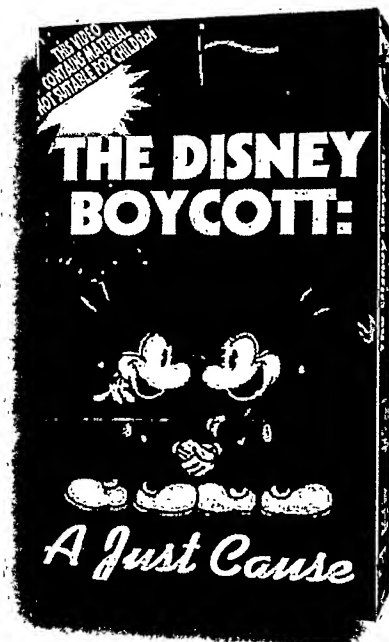
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MARCH 1998

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Ellen sitcom on life support

■ Gay rights group enlists Ellen's mom in pro-homosexual ads

What do you do when you've given the country its first lesbian lead character on TV, but no one wants to watch? Do you stand by your gal? Yes...and no, if you're Disney.

Creatively, the Disney/ABC sitcom *Ellen* has been in limbo. Three of its six episodes since Christmas have been reruns. Perhaps undecided about the show's future, Disney said it will pull *Ellen* from its regular rotation for six weeks, beginning March 11. It will return on April 22, but Disney has not decided if the show will return next season.

That uncertainty has angered gay activists, who believe that Disney's hesitancy to unreservedly back *Ellen* is the result of pressure from moral conservatives. Homosexual pressure groups like Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and Human Rights Campaign blasted AFA in shrill tones, calling the group "radical" and "extremist." Both have

urged their supporters to plead with Disney to keep the sitcom.

The decision by Disney to remove *Ellen* from its February sweeps line-up is understandable, as TV viewers now seem to be abandoning the show. For the 1996-97 season, the sitcom averaged 15.2 million viewers. But as the all-lesbian themes dragged on, viewership declined to 13.2 million. In three new episodes this year, *Ellen* averaged 11.9 million viewers, losing nearly two million viewers between January 7 and 28.

The public may be growing tired of *Ellen*'s loud and lewd lesbian self-promotion. A Gannett News Service poll revealed that almost half of respondents (47%) had an "unfavorable" opinion of actress Ellen DeGeneres. Only 34% had a "favorable" impression.

Moreover, the poll showed Americans have a negative view of television's pro-gay parade in general: 56% of people said they thought TV ought to have either fewer homosexual characters (23%) or none at all (33%).

Even ABC Entertainment president Jamie Tarses admitted the possible connection be-

See **ELLEN** on page 21

Stern says "under siege" from AFA

Shock-jock Howard Stern is pleading with his listeners to support sponsors of his radio show, after advertisers were inundated by thousands of cards and letters from AFA supporters protesting his vulgar program. Stern called AFA supporters "nuts" and "wackos."

Stern, who calls himself the King of All Media, is broadcast in 38 markets in the U.S. and two in Canada. A video version of his radio show is broadcast nightly on E! network, a cable channel. Disney and Comcast closed a deal last year which gave the pair 70% ownership in E!. According to *Daily Variety*, Disney oversees E!'s decision making.

AFA has volunteers in 20 cities where Stern's radio show is aired. The volunteers tape the program to track advertisers. Hundreds of letters go out each week to companies that sponsor Stern asking them to drop the program.

On his show, Stern says AFA is "probably run by two people and a computer and bunch of letterhead that they printed up themselves."

The Stern Project is headed by Bill Johnson of AFA of Michigan. Johnson said advertisers have been very responsive to requests to drop Stern. In Boston, for example, 128 out of 153 sponsors pulled their ads - nearly 84%. The Stern Project has seen similar success elsewhere: in Cleveland (82%), Detroit (87%), Pittsburgh (87%), Washington, DC (82%), and five other major markets, advertiser withdrawal rates have all been over 80%. Nationally the project has seen 1,600 sponsors (out of 1,871) drop Stern, Johnson said.

He conducts lewd interviews, fondles naked women on air, has called himself Jesus Christ and God, and almost always covers obscene topics. In December, for example,

See **STERN** on page 2



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AFA apparel and products for the whole family... page 11

BY STEVE BLOW • Dallas Morning News • October 12, 1997

Sex addicts see familiar signs in Marv Albert

Hey, have you heard about Marv Albert?

See, one day he's a rich and respected sports broadcaster. And then the next, he's a pathetic national joke, fired from his job and convicted of a crime.

Yeah boy, it's pretty hilarious all right.

Look, I hate to ruin all the fun. I laughed at the jokes, too. But now maybe it's time to scratch a little deeper. Beyond the tawdry testimony and talk show tittering, the story seems awfully sad.

"You just said the magic word. It is sad," Jim told me. "Everybody makes jokes about it, but they don't see that underneath is a man who is deeply troubled."

I asked Jim what he thought as he watched the Albert story unfold. "My first thought? 'Another addict exposed.'"

I guess it takes one to know one. Jim is a sex addict. He leads one of the eight Sex Addicts Anonymous groups in the Dallas area. And he has no doubt that Marv Albert shares his addiction. The symptoms are classic — the irrational risk taking, the escalating activity, the secrecy.

Jim is a middle-aged man who lives in a middle-class neighborhood and works in a middle-management job. "I'm your next-door neighbor," he says.

When his marriage hit a flat spot, sexual fantasies began to occupy his mind. They grew until they flooded his mind. Gradually, against his will, he began to act on those fantasies.

And his world collapsed six years ago when he was arrested for indecency with a child after fondling a teen.

MORE FORTUNATE

Gene is a lawyer in the Dallas area. He has no question about Marv Albert. "Oh, yeah. He's one of the brotherhood. There's no doubt about that."

For a long time, Gene didn't think he had a problem. He just thought he was living the swinging life Hugh Hefner and *Playboy* had taught him. "I had this delusion during my marriage that my sex drive was just too strong to be confined within a mere marriage."

He was proud of his sexual prowess, which led him to prostitutes and other partners on a weekly basis. Along with lots of porn.

"If anybody thinks pornography is any less dangerous than cocaine, they don't understand how it works. That stuff is strong," Gene said. "And it is absolutely poisonous to the mind."

The comparison to cocaine is quite appropriate. Dr. M. Deborah Corley is clinical director of an addiction treatment center near Denton, the Sante Center for Healing. And she said neurochemical research shows that sexual stimulation works in the brain just like a drug.

AFA OutReach... Help for sex addicts. See ad on page 22

Everyone knows the "rush" that can come from the most superficial sexual encounter — the momentary flirtation that leaves you short of breath and your heart beating faster. That's the high some get addicted to — whether it comes from browsing through porn on the Internet or cruising for partners in a park.

'THE CYCLE'

"Then, once they have had that hit, they drop off into shame and despair." Dr. Corley said. "They swear they will never do it again. But they do. That's the cycle of addiction."

Many, like Jim, will not break the cycle before disaster strikes. He will spend the rest of his life branded as a child molester, with public notification laws putting him in constant fear of humiliation and retaliation.

Gene was more fortunate. His addiction cost him two marriages, but he was spared public exposure.

He happened to be reading a Dear Abby or Ann Landers column nine years ago. Few had heard of sexual addiction then, but he said: "I knew something was wrong with my sex life. I knew it controlled me, that I didn't control it."

"The column described someone with sexual addiction, and one phrase just jumped out at me — 'secret sex life.' That rang a bell in my head. I said, 'That's what I am.'"

Jim and Gene said they are so much happier now. They don't carry that secrecy or shame any longer.

Gene said he wished he lived up the street from Marv Albert. "I'd walk down and say, 'Marv, I think you've got a problem. It's a problem I've got, too. Let me tell you about the help I found....'"

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APRIL 1998

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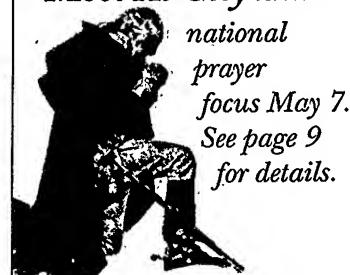
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Stern threatens to sue

■ Shock-jock promises to bankrupt AFA

Radio raunch-meister Howard Stern is threatening to destroy American Family Association, because AFA is convincing many sponsors of his show to invest their ad dollars in more socially responsible programs.

Stern, the self-proclaimed "King of All Media," is broadcast in almost 50 markets in the U.S., and is known for his filthy talk and lewd conduct on air.

The E! (Entertainment Television) cable channel carries a nightly video version of the *Howard Stern Show* which features segments from the daily radio broadcast. Disney and Comcast nailed down a 1997 deal which gave the pair a 70% ownership in E!, but Disney is overseeing the entertainment channel's decision-making, according to *Daily Variety*.

Thousands of AFA supporters have inundated Stern with postcards asking him to restrain his filth, also letting the shock-jock know that prayers are being lifted up on his

behalf. In nearly half the markets where Stern's show is aired, volunteers are monitoring the program daily. AFA supporters then contact Stern sponsors, asking them to drop the program when it is time to renew advertising contracts. Nationally the project has seen 84% of sponsors dump Stern.

However, America Online (AOL), the largest computer information service, remains the leading sponsor for Stern's show. Despite AFA's continued attempts to educate AOL about the nature of Stern's programs, the company insists on remaining a sponsor.

Stern has angrily denounced AFA's opposition to his radio program, and threatened to go after the organization. "...I'm probably going to teach them a lesson. Give them a little spanking...because, uh, I will take your money. I will bankrupt you," he said. "...And I will sue not only the organization, I'll sue the individuals who run the organization. I'll find out the names of whoever's printing that crap out of their basements on their computers, and I'll wreck their lives. I'll take their homes. And then they won't be part of the

See **STERN** on page 3

Will Disney/ABC jilt DeGeneres?

■ New Mouse movie to focus on male strip club

Disney appears ready to close the closet door on an infamous TV lesbian, but at the same time will welcome America into a famous male strip club with a new movie.

The entertainment giant has purchased the screen rights to *Chippendales*, an unpublished book about the male strip dancing industry. According to *Daily Variety*, Disney's Touchstone Pictures will produce the film.

While a movie about women who love nearly naked men promises to generate future controversy for Disney, a TV series about a woman who loves other women is generating controversy right now.

Since last April 30, when the Disney sitcom *Ellen* became the out-of-the-closet darling of the homosexual community, ABC has been a champion of gay rights activists. Now, how-

ever, amid rumors that Disney will drop the show because of slumping viewership, ABC has that same faction upset.

The sticking point for Disney seems to be what became *Ellen's* defining and celebrated element: it was a lesbian sitcom starring Ellen DeGeneres, a lesbian actress. But like a child with a new toy, the show has never gotten beyond its obsession with homosexuality.

"In short, *Ellen* has been so busy acknowledging the sexual orientation of its lead character that it has forgotten how to be smart and funny," said Ed Martin in a recent review in *USA Today*. He added that with the season nearly over, *Ellen* "is still hammering away at that worn-out theme."

The February 11 episode, for example, See **DISNEY** on page 3



BY DON FEDER, Creators Syndicate, Inc.

How many times must we say no to gay rights?

On February 10, there were 11 states with gay-rights laws. The following day, there were 10. In what The New York Times called "a landmark victory for Christian conservatives," voters in Maine, home of pine-scented liberalism, became the first in the nation to repeal a gay-rights law enacted by a state legislature.

In Washington state last November, activists tried to pass gay rights by referendum. Their proposal was rejected by a 60% vote.

After paying for its petition drive, Maine repeal forces (the "People's Veto") had \$50,000 left for advertising. Gay activists and their allies spent more than \$750,000.

Angus King, the state's popular governor, was the chief spokesman for the opposition. Maine's entire congressional delegation opposed repeal, as did every major media outlet in the state. All the People's Veto had was 1,700 volunteers and the pervasive unease of Middle America for what is proffered as an alternative lifestyle.

And they had one more advantage: The other side's arguments won't stand up to the scrutiny of a ballot campaign.

In their literature, the People's Veto posed seven questions, including: "Do you believe that church-run schools and day-care centers should be protected from lawsuits by homosexual activists?" and "Should parents object to the teaching of homosexuality as a normal lifestyle in the public schools."

Answer yes to any of these, and you must vote for repeal, it urged.

Gary Bauer's American Renewal ran full-page ads in papers in Portland and Bangor, which read in part: "Minority classifications have been generally defined to give special protection only to those who can prove three things: unchangeable characteristics, proof of widespread discrimination and political powerlessness. Anything else is bogus."

Gay rights fail on all three grounds. It has never been demonstrated that homosexuality is immutable. To the con-

trary, thousands of former homosexuals eloquently refute the genetic theory. Gays earn more and are more likely to live in upscale areas than the average American.

As for rampant discrimination in employment, the ad notes that five years after Portland passed a gay-rights ordinance covering job bias, exactly two lawsuits were filed. Both were settled when it became apparent that plaintiffs were fired because they couldn't do the work required.

The optimism of family activists must be tempered by the realization that acceptance of homosexuality continues to advance throughout the culture. Hollywood ceaselessly pushes an idealized view of gays as uniformly funny, charming, happy people whose only problem is lack of understanding among heterosexuals.

The Oscar-nominated film *As Good As It Gets* is a case in point. The gay neighbor, played by the appealing young actor Greg Kinnear, is warm, witty and generous.

Jack Nicholson's character, a compulsive personality, hates homosexuals—and blacks and Jews. Message: Objecting to homosexuality is probably a sign of mental illness and certainly on par with

racism and anti-Semitism.

The political establishment is almost as helpful as Hollywood. Despite the votes in Maine and Washington (and San Antonio, where a citizens revolt last month forced the city council to reverse itself on a gay-rights ordinance), legislatures in Maryland and Iowa are considering gay-rights laws.

President Clinton, who has put normalizing homosexuality high on his agenda, has nominated gay activist millionaire James C. Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg, a nation that's 97% Catholic.

At the polls, pro-family forces win victory after victory. In the culture and political arena, the opposition has a distinct advantage. The question becomes, how long can common sense bolstered by traditional morality hold out?

The story in the February 8 New York Times Magazine ("The Homosexual Exception") laments a new study showing that "suburban Americans are surprisingly tolerant—of everyone but gay men and lesbians.... Middle-class Americans have not come to the conclusion that homosexuality represents an alternative that is the moral equal of any other." Nor will they, while the nation retains its sanity.

This is still (barely) a democracy. How many times do we have to say "no"—to domestic-partners ordinances, gay marriage, efforts to coerce the Boy Scouts and public school indoctrination—before the elite takes this resounding negative as an answer?

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MAY 1998

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Stern wants relief from AFA heat

■ CBS gives Stern his own network show

As Howard Stern continues his drive toward becoming "The King of All Media," he keeps hitting a speed bump: the American Family Association. The shock-jock persists in blasting AFA for its unrelenting pressure on the sponsors of *The Howard Stern Show*, his pornographic daily radio program.

Stern broadcasts five hours daily, five days a week in almost 50 major radio markets. Recurring themes and activities of the show include: undressing women in the radio studio during a live broadcast; Stern's fantasies with lesbians; incredibly disgusting scatological "humor," blasphemy; masturbation; violent sex; bestiality; and sadomasochism.

If Stern is intoxicated by success in his media endeavors, he has reason to be. Stern's radio show continues to enter new markets

where he often moves into the number one spot. Stern was also honored at the Fourth Annual Blockbuster Entertainment Awards on March 10, where he received recognition as "Male Newcomer of the Year."

Perhaps most disappointing for pro-family groups, CBS has given a network television platform for Stern's crude persona with a Saturday night TV show. Expected to air initially in August, Stern will be going head-to-head with NBC's *Saturday Night Live*.

"TAKE THE HEAT OFF US"

But all is not peachy in Howard Stern's media orchard. The lone pit is AFA, which continues to target the sponsors of his repulsive radio refuse through a campaign – called The Stern Project – headed by Bill Johnson of AFA Michigan. Stern's show has been monitored in numerous markets throughout the country, and sponsors of the radio program have received letters giving specific examples of the perversity of the show and

See **STERN** on page 3

Disney earnings not quite magic

■ *Nothing Sacred* expires, *Ellen* gasping for air

Disney executives gleefully informed the nation in January that The Walt Disney Co. had increased net profit 18% in its fiscal fourth quarter of 1997, a fact that some said proved the boycott of the company was failing.

But that wasn't the whole story. In an article that appeared in the March 23 *Barron's*, a highly esteemed financial periodical, Abraham J. Briloff questioned the entertainment giant's accounting practices, saying the 18% gain was financial sleight-of-hand. Briloff is a certified public accountant and frequent contributor to *Barron's*.

Briloff said "the gains in Disney's reported results over the past five quarters have been significantly enhanced by creative accounting." He said Disney had established an undisclosed reserve of nearly \$2.5 billion "to absorb costs and expenses incurred."

As for the 18% gain at the end of 1997, Briloff said that Disney's accounting proce-

dures "transformed what otherwise would have been essentially flat earnings into a double-digit increase."

'NOTHING SACRED' LAID TO REST

Although the article in *Barron's* did not specifically address the boycott, there was evidence elsewhere that the boycott is being successful. After stubbornly clinging to a show that attracted few viewers but offended many, Disney/ABC finally put *Nothing Sacred* out of its misery.

The controversial drama was about a malcontent and maverick modernist priest, who used profanity, rebelled against the Catholic church's teaching on abortion, and disregarded the Bible on sexual issues. *Nothing Sacred* drew heavy fire from Catholics who saw the show as a slanderous treatment of their faith, and from other religious groups

See **DISNEY** on page 3

Violence against life begins in the womb

BY CAL THOMAS • Los Angeles Times Syndicate

We have heard predictable explanations for the tragic killings of four children and a teacher by children in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Some say it's violence on television and in films. While today's graphic "entertainment" violence is far worse than the cowboys, vaporizing aliens and monsters I grew up watching, that alone seems an incomplete excuse.

Others say it's guns. But the boys accused in the killings stole guns from relatives who bought them legally for hunting. ABC's Rebecca Chase slandered all Southerners when she suggested that the Jonesboro shootings, along with shootings by children in Pearl, Mississippi, and Paducah, Kentucky, indicated the region breeds violence because of lax gun laws and too many available weapons. What, then, explains drive-by shootings in Los Angeles, or kids shooting kids in Northern cities because they want their victims' expensive jackets or designer shoes?

Former talk show host Phil Donahue once said to me: "The problem with you conservatives is that you have simple answers to complex problems." I replied: "The problem with you liberals is that you've ignored the simple answers and that's why the problems have become complex."

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado, Boulder, has developed "blueprints" for 10 violence prevention programs. They include "Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies," "Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care," "Bullying Prevention Program," "Quantum Opportunities," "Multisystemic Training" and "Prenatal and Infancy Home Visitation by Nurses." All of these may have some merit, but they sound like complex solutions to a simple problem.

A few years ago, Mother Teresa told the audience at the National Prayer Breakfast that abortion was the principal cause of other types of violence, showing a declining respect for human life. A few days ago, Dr. Laura Schlessinger said on her national radio program that many children have ab-

sorbed the lessons they've been taught by adults: They are unwanted and a burden.

These explanations seem to contain the seeds for a lot of youth violence. The abortion of 30 million (and counting) unborn children stems from a materialistic culture that regards wealth, comfort and the right to be free of any "burden" or "inconvenience" as life's supreme objective. Too many children are dumped into day care so that busy, career-oriented parents can pursue life styles they believe will bring them happiness. Behavior problems at day care or in school are dealt with by prescribing Ritalin. Childhood depression and misbehavior are increasingly treated with medication. Pressure increases on the Food and Drug Administration to approve drugs for children that are now reserved for adults. Why are we surprised when so many kids turn to illegal substances, considering they have been drugged since childhood?

Too many parents anesthetize their stress with legal and illegal drugs. Too many are divorcing. And too many children have no roots, much less a family tree.

Five years ago, Cox News Service's Rowland Nethaway observed in an ar-

ticle: "Adults have always complained about their youth, but this is different. There have always been wild and rebellious kids who would go off the track and do something wrong. But they knew where the track was and what was wrong. Many of today's youth don't seem to know right from wrong. Children are robbing, maiming and killing on whims, with no pity and no remorse."

Two professional women friends of mine have had enough. They're quitting high-paying, broadcast media jobs to go home to their husbands and children. Maybe it's time for more of us to ask what profit there is in the accumulation of material things that will someday be sold at auction, or a career that can end in an instant when the boss calls you in on a Friday afternoon and fires you.

When children start killing, it is an extreme cry for help, love and attention, and for the presence of parents in the home. They need to be loved in a stable environment. When such homes were the rule in America, we had less unruliness.

It's a simple explanation, actually. Those who have ignored it now have a complex problem.

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JUNE 1998

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Disney CEO Eisner likens Southern Baptists to Hitler

■ Media ignores comment while scorching outspoken Christian

Michael Eisner, chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Co., has once again blasted the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), this time comparing their efforts to evangelize Jews with the Nazi effort to exterminate them in the Holocaust.

"Such an outrageous statement demonstrates that the boycott is wearing on Eisner's nerves," said Donald E. Wildmon, president of AFA. "Otherwise he would be ignoring it, not making inflammatory comments."

According to the Washington Times, in two separate speeches Eisner has remarked that the SBC voted to step up efforts to reach Jews with the Gospel at the same meeting that the denomination voted to boycott Disney.

Voting on the conversion plan "was something that hasn't been recommended since

the '40s in Europe," Eisner told Katie Couric on NBC's *Today Show*.

Rev. Richard Land, head of the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said, "Mr. Eisner's thinly veiled reference to Southern Baptists' commitment to evangelize those of the Jewish faith as reminiscent of Nazi Germany's horrific persecution of Jews is an outrageous, shocking and offensive statement."

SEE RELATED DISNEY STORIES, PAGES 2, 3

Land also said, "Evangelization is not extermination. Evangelism is truly the supreme act of love and obedience, not one of hate."

Wildmon asked, "Where is the liberal media in reporting this outrage? When Reggie White stood for the Bible in calling homosexuality a sin (*See story, page 4.*), he received a verbal scourging from the left-wing press. But when Michael Eisner equates preaching the Gospel with executing millions of innocent people, the liberal media ignores it."

■ AFA vows to target sponsors

Stern brings raunch to CBS

"It's a miracle; I prayed to God for this."

A quote from Mother Teresa? Billy Graham? The chaplain of the U.S. Senate? Guess again. These seemingly pious words were uttered by the lips of the self-proclaimed "King of All Media," Howard Stern, while announcing that he had finalized a pact with CBS for a Saturday late-night version of his raunchy radio shock-talk show.

Scheduled to kick off in August, Stern's as yet unnamed show will be patterned after his current TV show on E! Stern has a large following on radio - more than 17 million listeners, according to one recent radio industry survey. According to E! Online, if he can attract a majority of those radio listeners, Stern would leap-frog past the competition on Saturday night: NBC's late-night TV veteran *Saturday Night Live* (SNL) with 9.2 million view-

ers, and Fox's *Mad TV* with 4.5 million.

Pro-family groups, already concerned with the corruption on TV, can expect Stern to dig deeper into the cesspool. He promises to bring "train-wreck television" to CBS, complete with "wackos from every walk of life," "a lot of nudity and lesbians," "strippers" and "a lot of drunken dwarves."

One individual who quickly took a stand was syndicated top-drawer talk-radio star Dr. Laura Schlessinger. She was nearing her own deal with CBS for a television talk show, but dropped it upon hearing that the network had signed Stern. Schlessinger, a staunch advocate of traditional values, apparently felt that she and Stern didn't belong on the same network. According to *Daily Variety*, a spokesman for Schlessinger said that CBS' "program-

See **STERN** on page 4

Titanic...another perspective

BY AL MENCONI • President/Founder of Al Menconi Ministries

It's hard to imagine that there's anyone who hasn't seen the blockbuster hit movie *Titanic* by now. It's taken in more than a billion dollars in ticket sales worldwide, and has become the highest grossing movie of all time! It won 11 Oscars at the Academy Awards last month and it's been heralded as the great love story for our time, but is it? Let's look at this popular film from another perspective and see what it's really saying about love.

The story focuses on a despondent young woman named Rose (Kate Winslet). After her father's death, her mother secured their financial future by engaging her to a wealthy, but abusive, young man (Billy Zane). In despair, she attempts to commit suicide, but a handsome young artist named Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio) keeps her from jumping. This is the beginning of an impetuous affair. The next evening they spend a night of drinking and dancing with the passengers in steerage. Although raised as a prim and proper young lady, the next day she posed nude for her budding young artist. Later they have sex in the back seat of a car in the hull of the ship. When the *Titanic* hits an iceberg and begins to sink, they search desperately for one another amidst the disaster and chaos.

It's easy to see why the movie has such a strong appeal. A despicable villain, powerful special effects, and swells of romantic music make it easy to root for the attractive young couple. Against all odds, in the midst of disastrous circumstances, they manage to find and rescue one another, both literally and metaphorically. And who wouldn't want a love like that? Well, let's take a closer look.

This upper-class woman went from the depths of depression and attempting suicide to joyously dancing and drinking the night away with the lower class in steerage within 24 hours. In counseling circles, going from the depths of depression to the heights of euphoria in such a short period is usually considered manic-depressive behavior. Whatever we call her condition, she was in a very fragile state and was extremely vul-

TITANTIC...FOR THE RECORD

- Crude language: Many (11) times - mild 4, Moderate 7
- Obscene language: Many (11) times (f-word 1, sh-- 9, obscene gesture 1)
- Profanity: Many (16) regular 13 (God da-- 10, God 1, Jesus 2; Exclamatory 3 (my God, God Almighty, God knows)
- Sexual intercourse: Once (unmarried couple, nudity implied)
- Nudity: Several times artist's sketches of full frontal nudes; breast nudity when woman poses; near nudity (low-cut dresses)
- Sexually suggestive dialogue/Action: Few times (comment about men's genitals, passionate embraces; man suggests his fiancée sleep with him)
- Intended audience: ages 13 and older

Preview magazine

nerable to someone willing to take advantage of her. Along comes a cute young man with a smooth line and begins a tragic relationship. While fully aware of her fragile condition, he proceeds to lead her into a promiscuous night of drinking and eventually to sex. Outside the context of the movie, we would call this guy a predator, or at best a cad. Yet in the movie, this young man is hailed a hero and even the romantic lead for generation X.

We need to understand that what he did to this girl is not romance. At best, it is emotional rape. Even in my most

depraved college days in an "animal house" fraternity - before I accepted Christ as my Savior, mind you - there was an unwritten rule that you didn't take advantage of a "fragile" girl. Back then we didn't have many moral values or things we wouldn't do, but no one would seduce a girl who was fragile. It just wasn't done!

But now we are being sold that this is romance! Don't buy it! This isn't love. Taking advantage of someone in a fragile mental state isn't love, it's abuse!

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NEA helps support play about homosexual Jesus

■ AFA asks supporters to call lawmakers, demand defunding of NEA

The notorious National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), controversial for funding perverse and blasphemous art, has done it again. This time the organization has helped to support a play that depicts Jesus as a homosexual who has sex with his apostles.

Playwright Terrence McNally's latest work, entitled *Corpus Christi*, focuses on a Christ-character named Joshua. McNally has written numerous gay-themed plays, and has been the recipient of three Tony awards for his work.

Corpus Christi is being produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Inc. (MTC), which The New York Times describes as "one of the most prolific and influential theatrical entities in New York City." A spokesman for MTC said the play will probably open either on Broadway or off-Broad-

way this fall.

According to an NEA press release, MTC received an \$80,000 grant from the NEA to "support a major, two-year initiative to create and develop new plays and musicals during 1997-99." The NEA is a government agency created and funded by Congress, despite enormous pressure from conservatives.

"The NEA continues to sponsor organizations who seem to despise morality in general and Christianity in particular, and they use taxpayer money to do it," said Allen Wildmon, AFA director of public relations. "*Corpus Christi* may very well be the most blasphemous concept ever supported by this rogue agency."

The NEA typically defends itself by arguing that grant money does not go directly to producing offensive plays. "That's a typical response," Wildmon said. "The NEA and those getting NEA money basically play a shell game. The tax dollars went to MTC, which used the money on a non-offensive play, but that frees up money that

See **NEA** on page 2

■ Disney/ABC exec admits pro-gay sympathies

Ellen sitcom exits with a whimper

It came out of the closet with the roar of a tornado, mesmerizing the media, captivating Hollywood and fusing together diverse pro-family groups in vociferous protest. But in the end, the Disney/ABC lesbian sitcom *Ellen* dissipated quietly like a puff of smoke, virtually unnoticed and unmourned.

In what was a historic moment for television, actress Ellen DeGeneres' character on *Ellen*, the clumsily endearing Ellen Morgan, proclaimed her lesbian sexual orientation on April 30, 1997. Just over a year later, the series finale aired on May 13. What was obviously intended to be a sumptuously comedic farewell feast, complete with a star-studded supporting cast, turned out to be nothing more than a disappointing weenie-roast.

The episode's title, "*Ellen: A Hollywood Tribute*," was certainly accurate. A host of Hollywood big names came out in complete support of Ellen

and the gay cause. Appearing in-cameo roles: Jennifer Aniston; Bea Arthur; Glenn Close; Tim Conway; Cindy Crawford; Ted Danson; Phil Donahue; Linda Ellerbee; Woody Harrelson; Helen Hunt; Christine Lahti; Julianna Margulies; Kathy Najimy; Jada Pinkett Smith; and Mary Steenburgen, among others.

The one-hour show was a mock documentary that followed the career of comedienne Ellen DeGeneres, as she broke barrier after barrier in a fictitious 39-year career. Ellen challenged the prevailing prejudices she encountered, including patriarchal domination in the home, racism, and America's repression of sexuality on TV. While there was no explicit mention of homosexuality, DeGeneres is portrayed as waging a heroic struggle against bigotry, obviously intended as a symbol of the fight against the final irrational

See **ELLEN** on page 3

■ New book reaches into lonely teenage life

Teens seek community of peers when parents not around

BY SUZANNE FIELDS • Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Courtney is not her real name, but she's a real person. She's a teenager in Reston, Virginia, an upper-middle class suburb of Washington, and politicians and parents, feminists and family-values folk ought to pay attention to her because what Courtney thinks about sex tells us a lot about a youth culture that lacks adult guidance.

She's one of eight adolescents who trusted Patricia Hersch, author and the mother of three sons, to talk to her about what it's like to be a middle-class teenager growing up today. Hersch records it all in an important and poignant book called *A Tribe Apart... A Journey into the Heart of American Adolescence*.

The author gets behind the teenage bravado to reach into the lonely center of teenage life. Here's Courtney reflecting on being a preteen: "In seventh grade you know all the facts about (sex). You see TV and movies... and you think it would be perfect. But you don't really think about the actual act of sex.... You don't know how it's going to feel, or that you have to trust someone. You just think, he's a hot guy, let's have sex. And of course, in seventh grade, you don't really mean it."

By age 14, Courtney is being pressured by a 15-year-old boy named Nat who has already had sexual relations with at least three girls. He tells Courtney he loves her. She doesn't really believe him. She makes up all kinds of excuses "not to" but he wears her down. They do "it." She has to produce the condom (she has "tons" of them.)

Courtney doesn't enjoy the sex. Nat was all big talk and little knowledge. Once she is no longer a virgin, he stops telling her that he loves her. He reduces his love talk to one kiss. He "cheats" on her with other girls. They break up and she feels angry, frustrated and humiliated. She doesn't know how "this bad experience" will affect her later, but she knows that at 14 she's bored.

What's astonishing about Courtney's story is how unremarkable it is. All the talk of sex education experts and hand-wringing moralists totally misses the point of

Courtney's experience. Girls like Courtney and boys like Nat live in a culture that doesn't really have a clue to the lives kids lead because the adults are too busy working with jobs and careers.


These adolescents aren't rebels. Rebellion requires limits. Rebellion requires supervision. Rebellion requires something to sneak away from. Rebellion is about not getting caught by a mom, a nosy neighbor, or a spinster aunt.

These kids live in neighborhoods where nobody's home. Whatever they do, whether for good or bad, easily escapes the detection of adults.

"In the vacuum where traditional behavioral expectations for young people used to exist, in the silence of empty homes and neighborhoods, young people have built their own community," writes Hersch. "The adolescent community is a creation by default.... Their dependence on each other fulfills the universal human longing for community, and inadvertency cements the notion of a tribe apart."

Her book contains all the requisite statistics about teenage problems, but what's original in its insight is the recognition of the "aloneness" of the adolescents. Without any parents or neighbors at home after school, they have little time to engage adults in conversation, to observe, imitate, interact or even reject their ideas.

Music and television are culprits as background music for synthetic experiences. But the foreground is a community bereft of adults for long afternoons where the teenagers come and go acting according to how they think their peers expect them to act, not their own desires; how they want to be seen, not how they want to be.

The town of Reston, where these children come of age is a planned community — planned for diversity, for safety and for shelter — but somehow the adults forgot to plan for themselves to be there too. In that sense it's the Our Town of the '90s, and there's a lesson here for all of us. We'd better think about the answers. 

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AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION



AUGUST 1998

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Ruling stands: no more porn sales in military

■ High court decision major victory for decency advocates

The Supreme Court in June let stand a ruling upholding the Military Honor and Decency Act, which banned the sale of pornography in the military. Last November the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals declared the law constitutional but stayed its ruling until the Supreme Court decided whether to hear the case. The nation's high court declined, and the appellate court ruling has now settled the issue.

The Military Honor and Decency Act bans the sale of all "sexually explicit material," which Congress defined to include all videos, audio recordings, and periodicals "the dominant theme of which depicts or describes nudity, including sexual or excretory activities or organs, in a lascivious way."

The Act was also intended to promote military discipline and order, especially in light of sex scandals and escalating claims of sexual harassment within the military in recent years.

Penthouse publisher General Media Communications challenged the law, arguing that the ban unconstitutionally restricted the publisher's right to free speech and expression.

Tim Wildmon, AFA vice president, said the decision will have far-reaching consequences. "This is a dramatic defeat for the pornography industry, and a victory for decency in our social institutions," he said. "And for a military which has sometimes found itself investigating sexual harassment and sex crimes committed against the women in its ranks, this decision makes all the sense in the world."

AFA director of governmental affairs Patrick Trueman noted the sweeping language of the
See PORN on page 2

Federal arts agency can refuse money for indecent art, court says

Conservatives who have waged a tiresome battle against the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) were cheered by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that the controversial agency can refuse to grant public monies to art work that it deems indecent.

The ruling culminates a long legal challenge stemming from congressional restrictions on the NEA passed in 1990. The policy change instructed the agency to consider whether a proposed work is in line with general standards of decency when deciding whether to issue grant money. Because the law was controversial and was to be challenged in court, the NEA has never actually applied the restrictions.

The 8-1 high court ruling in *National Endowment for the Arts v. Finley* came after performance artists challenged the restrictions on constitutional grounds, arguing that they would have a "chilling effect" on free speech. One of the plaintiffs, Karen Finley, performs in the nude and covers herself in chocolate and bean sprouts to represent sperm; the other "artist," John Fleck, reportedly "performed" by urinating on stage into a toilet bowl which contained a representation of the face of Christ.

Initially, two lower courts, including the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, agreed with Finley and Fleck. The Supreme Court decision overturns

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Disney boycott plus two years. Are we making an impact?

STORY ON PAGE 4

'Submission' by Baptists not as was oft reported

BY PAUL GREENBERG • *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*
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■ Even The New York Times buried full text until near the bottom of the story

More revealing than the Southern Baptists' new statement of belief about the family is how widely misunderstood it has been. It's not exactly news that we live in a biblically illiterate society, but one suspects there's something going on here besides ignorance. Maybe it's willful ignorance.

How else to explain the incomplete, and therefore distorted, news coverage of what was in fact a carefully qualified theological position? Time and again, its key phrases were glossed over or omitted entirely in the coverage of the Statement of Belief adopted by the Baptists last week in Salt Lake City.

Setting the pace was the front page story in The New York Times, a journal that can take a sudden interest in religious affairs when it believes it's found something embarrassing to report. Its headline summed up the common misunderstanding of the Baptists' position and may even be largely responsible for it: "Southern Baptists Declare Wife Should 'Submit' to Her Husband."

Gentle (and Horrified) Reader might have got the same impression from the talk shows, the editorial cartoons or the witticisms of presidential spokesman Mike McCurry. The 250-word statement adopted at Salt Lake City has more reservations, modifiers, elaborations and conditions than a car rental policy. The full text of the statement was buried deep and it leaves a quite different impression.

Here is what the Baptists actually said: "The husband and wife are of equal worth before God. Both bear God's image but each in differing ways. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect and to lead his family. A wife is to submit gra-



ciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in 'the image of God' as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his 'helper' in managing their household and nurturing the next generation."

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AUGUST 1998

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Use pages 12 & 13 as a bulletin insert, newsletter or passalong.

Ruling stands: no more porn sales in military

■ High court decision major victory for decency advocates

The Supreme Court in June let stand a ruling upholding the Military Honor and Decency Act, which banned the sale of pornography in the military. Last November the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals declared the law constitutional but stayed its ruling until the Supreme Court decided whether to hear the case. The nation's high court declined, and the appellate court ruling has now settled the issue.

The Military Honor and Decency Act bans the sale of all "sexually explicit material," which Congress defined to include all videos, audio recordings, and periodicals "the dominant theme of which depicts or describes nudity, including sexual or excretory activities or organs, in a lascivious way."

The Act was also intended to promote military discipline and order, especially in light of sex scandals and escalating claims of sexual harassment within the military in recent years.

Penthouse publisher General Media Communications challenged the law, arguing that the ban unconstitutionally restricted the publisher's right to free speech and expression.

Tim Wildmon, AFA vice president, said the decision will have far-reaching consequences. "This is a dramatic defeat for the pornography industry, and a victory for decency in our social institutions," he said. "And for a military which has sometimes found itself investigating sexual harassment and sex crimes committed against the women in its ranks, this decision makes all the sense in the world."

AFA director of governmental affairs Patrick Trueman noted the sweeping language of the

See **PORN** on page 2

Federal arts agency can refuse money for indecent art, court says

Conservatives who have waged a tiresome battle against the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) were cheered by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that the controversial agency can refuse to grant public monies to art work that it deems indecent.

The ruling culminates a long legal challenge stemming from congressional restrictions on the NEA passed in 1990. The policy change instructed the agency to consider whether a proposed work is in line with general standards of decency when deciding whether to issue grant money. Because the law was controversial and was to be challenged in court, the NEA has never actually applied the restrictions.

The 8-1 high court ruling in *National Endowment for the Arts v. Finley* came after performance artists challenged the restrictions on constitutional grounds, arguing that they would have a "chilling effect" on free speech. One of the plaintiffs, Karen Finley, performs in the nude and covers herself in chocolate and bean sprouts to represent sperm; the other "artist," John Fleck, reportedly "performed" by urinating on stage into a toilet bowl which contained a representation of the face of Christ.

Initially, two lower courts, including the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, agreed with Finley and Fleck. The Supreme Court decision overturns

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Disney boycott plus two years. Are we making an impact?

STORY ON PAGE 4

'Submission' by Baptists not as was oft reported

BY PAUL GREENBERG • *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*
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■ Even The New York Times buried full text until near the bottom of the story

More revealing than the Southern Baptists' new statement of belief about the family is how widely misunderstood it has been. It's not exactly news that we live in a biblically illiterate society, but one suspects there's something going on here besides ignorance. Maybe it's willful ignorance.

How else to explain the incomplete, and therefore distorted, news coverage of what was in fact a carefully qualified theological position? Time and again, its key phrases were glossed over or omitted entirely in the coverage of the Statement of Belief adopted by the Baptists last week in Salt Lake City.

Setting the pace was the front page story in The New York Times, a journal that can take a sudden interest in religious affairs when it believes it's found something embarrassing to report. Its headline summed up the common misunderstanding of the Baptists' position and may even be largely responsible for it: "Southern Baptists Declare Wife Should 'Submit' to Her Husband."

Gentle (and Horrified) Reader might have got the same impression from the talk shows, the editorial cartoons or the witticisms of presidential spokesman Mike McCurry. The 250-word statement adopted at Salt Lake City has more reservations, modifiers, elaborations and conditions than a car rental policy. The full text of the statement was buried deep and it leaves a quite different impression.

Here is what the Baptists actually said: "The husband and wife are of equal worth before God. Both bear God's image but each in differing ways. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect and to lead his family. A wife is to submit gra-



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SEPTEMBER 1998

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Congress keeps NEA alive

■ Taxes will continue to fund obscenity

Like some proverbial creature in a "B" horror movie, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has escaped death once again, to live and terrorize the countryside with its toxic ooze.

The 33-year-old agency, created by President Lyndon Johnson to help promote and support the arts in America, has been the target of conservative ire for a decade. It has continually sustained so-called artists who appear to delight in shocking the sensibilities of average Americans, especially Christians.

The most recent travesty is the Terrance McNally play, *Corpus Christi*, about a homosexual Christ-figure who has sex with his disciples. Produced by the Manhattan Theater Club (MTC), a brochure about the play says, "Terrance McNally gives us his own unique view of 'the greatest story ever told.'" (See AFA Journal, 7/98.)

AFA has obtained a copy of a grant award

letter, sent to MTC in June of 1996, in which the NEA committed \$31,000 "to support expenses for the development and world premiere of the new play, *Corpus Christi*, by Terrence McNally."

When outraged Christians objected to the blasphemous nature of the play, defenders of the NEA argued that MTC did not use the art agency's money to fund the play. Technically, that is correct. In December of 1996 MTC asked for and received permission to use the grant monies originally awarded for *Corpus Christi* for another play, postponing the McNally work for later.

But AFA President Donald E. Wildmon said that, while technically correct, the money switch amounts to nothing more than a smokescreen. "This is splitting hairs. The NEA awarded the money for *Corpus Christi* in 1996. That's enough of a disgrace as it is," he said. "But then MTC took the *Corpus Christi* money to produce other plays, thus being able to substitute other theater funds to produce *Corpus Christi*. It's a classic shell game."

See **CONGRESS** on page 22

CBS affiliates refusing to run Stern

■ Owner of Snapple, Arby's top Stern sponsor... See page 3

By an overwhelming majority, most of the 200 local CBS affiliates are rejecting the offer to air Howard Stern's syndicated Saturday night television show. For the most part, that now leaves just 12 of the network's 14 owned-and-operated (O&O) CBS stations holding the bag.

"We are checking and re-checking these CBS affiliates, but so far some 97% of them are saying they will not be carrying *The Howard Stern Show*," said Buddy Smith, AFA executive assistant. "This is a victory for people who expressed concerns to potential CBS customers of Stern."

CBS local affiliates had been offered the first crack at Stern's show from CBS's Eyemark Entertainment. With most of them turning away, CBS now must convince independent stations or smaller networks — like WB or UPN — to pick

it up. The show is set to air on CBS's O&Os beginning August 22.

Most of the CBS stations expressed sentiments similar to those of AFA supporters who called, stating that they were not interested in Howard Stern's sort of programming. For example, WWL-TV in New Orleans said in a letter that it had received the petitions signed by AFA supporters and, "because of the same views shared by you, WWL-TV has no plans or desire to air this program on its station and has informed the CBS Network of the numerous petitions received by its local viewers protesting the airing of *The Howard Stern Show*. WWL-TV values the opinion of its viewers and wishes to thank you for taking the time to express your views."

See **CBS** on page 3

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Act, but don't antagonize

BY AL MENCONI • *Menconi Ministries, 760-591-4696*



Many of our readers have expressed concern with the influence of today's entertainment media on their families and have mentioned to me that they would like to "give them a piece of my mind." Before you fly off the handle (and maybe do worse damage), I'd like to share something with you.

Christians have a higher calling than merely cleaning up the entertainment industry. We are to glorify Christ in everything we do. If you spend more time confronting the "opposition" than you spend confronting the throne of God, your priorities are wrong! The following is given with the assumption that you have already committed the matter to much prayer. This excellent advice was written by my friend Larry Poland at *Mastermedia*. I believe you will find it helpful.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF MEDIA RESPONSE

- 1. Thou shalt respond to the creators of media.** Let the creators of film, TV, radio, and print media know your convictions. Silence is a vote in favor of whatever media creators do. Express appreciation as well as concern.
- 2. Thou shalt indicate clearly the position or perspective from which you write.** Declare if you are writing as "a parent," "a victim of child abuse," or "a company president." If you use business letterhead (with company clearance, of course), tell whether the views are yours or the organization's.
- 3. Thou shalt communicate to the top of the structure.** Address the person with the power to do something about the issue. Direct your communication to the corporation president, station manager, editor, or program director. Secure the person's name by calling the local affiliate or outlet.
- 4. Thou shalt get right to the point.** Keep communication short and concise so that a busy executive will give it the proper attention. Address a single situation or incident, not a collection of frustrations. Type or write legibly. Keeping stamped postcards handy is helpful.
- 5. Thou shalt be specific as to the details.** "Clean up the trash" and "keep up the good work" are not useful responses. Specify what you are responding to, where it appeared, at what time and date, what you considered offensive or admirable, and the reasons behind your response. You can't be too specific.
- 6. Thou shalt be positive and courteous.** Media executives, just like you, don't appreciate being "bombed." Acknowledge the difficulty of their tasks. Be respectful, courteous, and avoid profanity or negatively-charged words that attack the person's character.
- 7. Thou shalt avoid talking "Christianese."** Many media executives are not Christians. Avoid theological or ecclesiastical lingo, long Scripture quotations, condemnations of their religious viewpoint, or attempts to convert them. If you desire to share your faith, do so in a separate communication.
- 8. Thou shalt be reasonable.** It is good to give reasons why you felt the media content was unwise, irresponsible, inappropriate, admirable, excellent, or noteworthy. Don't just vent feelings and frustrations.
- 9. Thou shalt pray about your response.** Pray for God's guidance, for a positive reception of your response, and for the executive receiving it. If you are angry, let your anger subside before responding. "Sleep on" written responses before sending.
- 10. Thou shalt follow-up your response.** Respond again if an offense continues or you do not receive an adequate response. Express thanks for removing offensive material, for apologies, for sending you helpful information, etc.

In conclusion, don't forget that you are representing Jesus Christ. Is this action something He would want you to do? ☛

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OCTOBER 1998

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TODAY

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Stern smut debuts on CBS

■ Disney/Miramax sponsors vile show

For months CBS has ignored the complaints of outraged Americans who did not want the corrupt antics of Howard Stern being given a nationwide platform. And as Stern's new TV show was unveiled on August 22, CBS apparently got what it wanted: an hour full of strippers, lesbians kissing, nude women, and vulgar humor.

"CBS executives owe the American people an apology for embracing Stern and his sexual obsessions," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. "CBS has disgraced every community into which it has hustled Stern's smut."

The unholy matrimony between Stern and CBS was announced last April. The late-night Saturday TV show, called *The Howard Stern Radio Show*, was to be produced in association with CBS Television Stations Group, and marketed through CBS's Eyemark Entertainment.

Initially the show was to air on 12 of the

network's 14 owned-and-operated stations, covering about 30% of the U.S. television market. When it was discovered that Eyemark would then give some 200 CBS affiliates first crack at picking up Stern in syndication, AFA began a campaign to implore the affiliates to reject the show.

Most of those local CBS affiliates (more than 97%) informed concerned citizens they would not be putting *The Howard Stern Radio Show* on the air. But Eyemark successfully pitched the show to other networks and independent stations, so that when Stern's TV show first aired, an additional 40% of the nation's television viewers were added.

STERN: "I'M EMBARRASSED AT WHO I AM"

Oddly, when the show premiered, it was preceded by a parental advisory—"intended for adult audiences." Ironically, it was rated TV14, rather than TVMA (for mature audiences).

That wasn't a problem as far as Stern was concerned. On his August 18 radio program, Stern

See **STERN** on page 3

Walt Disney Company profits down

■ Mouse/Miramax releases new slasher film

Spokesmen for The Walt Disney Co. have been smugly claiming for months that the boycott of their company has had no effect, but signs are now beginning to point to the boycott's corrosive effect on the Mouse's bottom line.

For the three months ending June 30, Disney's overall net profit dropped 2%, even lower than most Wall Street analysts were expecting, according to *Daily Variety*. The dip in profit was due mainly to sluggish video sales, weaker-than-anticipated film performance, and decreased overall demand for consumer products. Disney CEO Michael Eisner has said in the past that new company ventures and expansion would yield yearly double-digit earnings increases.

Even at Disney's vaunted theme parks, long one of the company's most profitable founda-

tion stones, attendance was weaker than anticipated. The number of visitors to Disney World's four theme parks only climbed 5% this spring, although projected attendance was expected to grow 6 to 8% with the addition of the new Animal Kingdom park. According to an article in the Orlando Sentinel, some industry observers expect the final numbers for the fiscal year, which ends September 30, to reflect a "low single-digit increase" only.

That news followed on the heels of an 18% drop in the value of Disney's stock this summer, as market analysts became more skeptical about the company's immediate performance. Wall Street analysts lowered their profit forecasts and cut investment ratings.

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Sentimentally yours

Reprinted from Christianity Today magazine, 8/10/98

In June, the American Film Institute (AFI) released a list of the 100 best American movies. Quite apart from arguments over the comparative merits of this or that film, the list is valuable for what it reveals about the mind set of the entertainment industry and the public it serves. Beneath the surface variety, a clear pattern emerges. Two kinds of films dominate the list: the sentimental – for example, *Gone with the Wind* (4); and the nihilistic – *Pulp Fiction* (95). The nihilism provides a flattering thrill – “We’re giving it to you straight!” – and a warrant to ignore the inconvenient moral absolutes, which, the movies are telling us, are just a polite fiction anyway. The sentimentalism offers emotional, even kitschy, comforts at the expense of ethical and intellectual concerns.

As Christians, we are used to hearing jeremiads about the increasing depravity of the entertainment industry, and of movies in particular. We hear thundering denunciations of the “cultural elites” who are out of touch with the values of the American mainstream. And what happens? The next weekend, half the congregation heads to theaters to watch *Titanic* for the third time, while the other half goes to Blockbuster to pick out a video or three.

What is noteworthy about the AFI list is not only the heavy doses of violence and sex. No, it’s also that overpowering sentimentality: sweet, sometimes bittersweet, and oh so seductive – designed to paralyze the critical faculties. Certainly Christian leaders are right to point to the corrupting influence of violent and perverse entertainment. But equally pervasive, and just as destructive – if more subtle in its effects – is the influence of sentimentality.

Sentimentality is the unremarked common denominator between American popular culture and the evangelical subculture. Sentimentality offers powerful emotional satisfactions abstracted from genuine human context: abstracted from the relational and ethical complexities of real life. So movies from *Doctor Zhivago* to *Titanic* offer illicit sex packaged like one of those flavored

“European” coffees (“it tastes so good, it must be right”).

Sentimentality is destructive because it is unreal. It severs emotions from their holistic context. And the more it is indulged, the more it has the power to exploit and twist genuine feeling. Hymns and praise songs that speak of an intimacy with Jesus

Sentimentality is destructive because it is unreal. It severs emotions from their holistic context. And the more it is indulged, the more it has the power to exploit and twist genuine feeling.

can be vehicles of worship, but when the congregation merely mouths the words dreamily, never testing the depth of their commitment to Jesus’ commands, worship becomes merely sentimental, with emotions savored for their own sake.

When you walk into a typical Christian bookstore, you won’t see a calendar featuring naked models. That’s good; there is

a lot of slime that Christians are warned to avoid. But you will find products that exude a yucky, artificial “niceness” radically at odds with the life of Jesus. Sentimentalism is our blind spot, the largely unnoticed entry point where the world infiltrates the church.

Too often Christian books, music, radio, and TV serve to invite us to dwell in an artificial gated community. In this sentimental kingdom, where we regale each other about our battles with the world and savor stories about victories over our enemies “out there,” something else is missing too: the texture of everyday life in which Christians are to be salt and light to the world, as Jesus was, dining with tax collectors.

Christian media critics should begin rating movies (and books) with an S, connecting the sentimentally that scores big at the box office with a prevailing tone of the evangelical subculture. Maybe in the process they will provoke us to ask whether the comforts of fuzzy emotionalism should be what guides Christians rather than the hard edge of Scripture, the jarring example of Christ, and the deep wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

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Boycott blackens Mickey's eye

■ Disney profits plunge again

The Magic Kingdom may not be crumbling, but The Walt Disney Company may be losing its magic touch nonetheless. For the fourth quarter of 1998 (ending September 30), Disney's earnings were down 31%, following a 2% drop in profit for the third quarter.

While Disney's 1998 growth performance will probably exceed 1997 by 8%, that is still far below the expected 15%-20% the company normally demonstrates. A growth rate of 20% has been the yearly goal that Disney Chairman and CEO Michael Eisner has come to expect.

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon said, "We knew from the beginning that this was going to be a protracted boycott effort. This is a long-distance endurance run, not a sprint. As more people learn what this boycott is all about, more will join, and the financial pressure on Disney will continue to mount."

Disney's weaker financial outlook has already affected its image on Wall Street: its stock has dropped 43% since it peaked last April. That decline included a one-time June 30 stock plummet that was the largest in almost nine years for Disney.

As a result of the company's financial turbulence, analysts have found themselves forced repeatedly to revise their estimates on the Mouse's expected performance. According to *Daily Variety*, Wall Streeters have slashed their expectations for 1998 growth by 12%.

David Londoner, an analyst at Schroder & Co., said his company had already lowered their earnings estimate for Disney, but said fourth quarter performance "was even worse than we thought."

Another possible indication of the boycott's influence is that Disney's problems seem to be unshared by other entertainment industry heavy hitters. In contrast to their more pessimistic rating of the Mouse, Wall Street analysts raised their earnings estimates for Disney's largest competitors — Time Warner, News Corp. and Viacom. Merrill

See **BOYCOTT** on page 22

Stern continues TV ratings free fall

■ AFA's Stern Project highly effective in 20 markets

Shock-jock Howard Stern's new late-night Saturday television show continues to hemorrhage viewers and lose TV stations willing to air the show. Meanwhile a remarkable number of advertisers on Stern's national radio program are also dropping the show.

"This is an indication that decent people don't want to subject themselves to the lowest depths of cultural filth as presented by Howard Stern," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. "While CBS seemed to think that naked women, kissing lesbians and strippers are entertainment, we disagreed. Now it looks like most people feel the same way."

The TV show, called *The Howard Stern Radio Show*, is produced by the CBS Television Stations Group and marketed by Eyemark Enter-

tainment, CBS' syndication arm. Since Stern's program debuted on August 22 it has continually lost viewership. By the seventh show Stern's national television ratings had dropped 45% from his premiere. In the 27 markets where Stern went head-to-head with NBC's *Saturday Night Live* (SNL), the shock-jock netted a mere 2.7 rating compared to SNL's 7.9. (An overnight ratings point equals 598,000 homes.) Even Fox's *Mad TV* has been beating the self-proclaimed "King of All Media," keeping Stern in last place.

Besides the precipitous drop in viewers, *The Howard Stern Radio Show* has been dumped by at least three U.S. stations which had already committed to carry the sleazy program: KJTV in Lubbock, Texas; KTVK in Phoenix, Arizona;

See **STERN** on page 3

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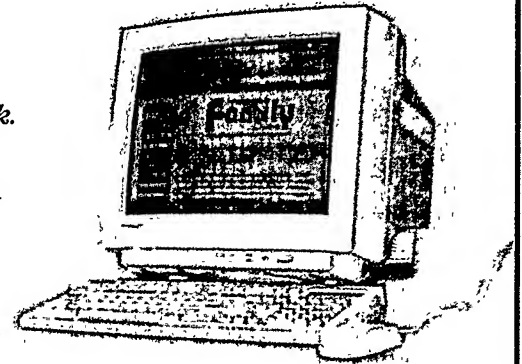
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By the way, AFO is a subsidiary of American Family Association, a Christian organization that has been protecting the family and fighting pornography for over 20 years.



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AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

Stern's stations trickle away

■ CBS CEO remains rock-solid behind shock-jock

For the last six weeks Howard Stern has continued the trend that began with his premiere TV show last August — every Saturday night he finishes third behind the competitors he promised to trounce. Worse, the shock-jock's nasty subject matter has led nine stations to dump the late night show.

According to Nielsen Media Research, *The Howard Stern Radio Show* has a meager 1.5 rating, which represents just over 1.5 million households. That means, says *TV Guide*, that Stern's Saturday night programming attracts half the audience of Fox's *MAD TV* and a quarter of NBC's *Saturday Night Live* (SNL) viewership.

The Howard Stern Radio Show, the name for his TV program, is produced by the CBS Television Stations Group and marketed by Eyemark

Entertainment, CBS's syndication arm.

A number of stations have dropped Stern: Lubbock, Texas; San Diego; Phoenix; St. Louis; Portland, Oregon; Fort Meyers, Florida; Knoxville, Tennessee; Jacksonville, Florida; and Birmingham, Alabama. All cited the show's raunchy antics as the reason, and so far no competitors in those markets have come forward to pick up *The Howard Stern Radio Show*.

While not yet dropping *The Howard Stern Radio Show*, WBDC-TV in Washington, D.C., pushed it two hours further into the night, moving it from its original 11 p.m. slot to 1 a.m. Once again, the raunchy content of the program was the reason for the station's action.

Stern's pornographic programming doesn't
See **STERN** on page 3

Clorox extends benefits to gays

■ Company says it "values" differences in sexual orientation

In a move that stunned many in the Christian community, the Clorox Company has reportedly become the first major consumer products maker to offer employee benefits to the homosexual domestic partners of its workers.

In a letter to AFA President Donald E. Wildmon, Clorox Chairman and CEO G. Craig Sullivan said the company "values and respects differences" among its workers, including differences in sexual orientation.

Sullivan also defended the Clorox decision by citing the company's non-discrimination policy, which includes sexual orientation. "Extending domestic partner benefits to our people is consistent with these values," he said.

But Wildmon said the issue wasn't discrimination, it was the ongoing cultural assault on the institution of marriage. "So many in our society now say the institution of marriage is irrelevant, that whether people live together or sleep around is just as good as marriage," he said.

"Now Clorox has joined that chorus. These

health benefits used to be reserved for married couples. By giving them to the homosexual partners of employees, Clorox is saying the company sees no difference in the two types of relationships," Wildmon said.

Gay rights activists were encouraged by the change in policy, however. One publication which targets the homosexual community, *The Advocate*, called the move "an important breakthrough," and hinted that other major consumer products companies may follow Clorox's example. "In the past, benefits have generally spread within industries once one company broke the barrier and offered them," the magazine said.

The impact of the Clorox decision on other companies may be dramatic. Even though currently only 6% of U.S. employers offer homosexual employees benefits for their domestic partners, *The Advocate* said another 29% are considering such a change.

Write or call Clorox Company, P.O. Box 24305, Oakland, CA 94623, phone: 510-271-7000.

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Christians Society
TODAY

Use pages 4 & 5 as a bulletin insert, newsletter or passalong.

BEGINS AFTER PAGE 12

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Religion – God for what ails you

BY DON FEDER • *Creator's Syndicate*

There was a time when the village atheist sounded somewhat intelligent or was at least interesting, if not original. Today, he could double as the village idiot.

Driving to work, I had the misfortune of tuning in to the morning mouth on a local talk station. In an effort to goad listeners into reacting, he declared that religion is dying in America and (in his opinion) a good thing it is.

The excuses given for this Madalyn Murray O'Hair tirade were a case of clerical misconduct and the reported appearance of the Virgin Mary in a freezer chest. On the other hand, he may just have been having a spiritual bad-hair day.

He claimed that the Catholic Church can't recruit priests, that Jews are intermarrying, so they're disappearing, and that by and large people are too savvy to fall for a bunch of "shabby card tricks performed 3,000 years ago."

The host, a libertarian, quoted Karl Marx's dictum that religion is the opiate of the masses. Interesting that this a.m. proponent of laissez-faire believes the father of communism was so wrong about economics yet so right about metaphysics.

Still, no discussion of faith should neglect the prophet of the proletariat. The horrors of the 20th century – shaped by intellectuals like Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche – show the true face of a world without God.

The century's mass murderers (Hitler, Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot) all were godless men. They offered humanity a world free of the drug of divine love. The result was death camps, gulags and killing fields.

Religion dying in America? I doubt it. Today, 63% of American families say grace or give thanks before meals, compared to 43% in 1947.

There are two Americas, one militantly (or inadvertently) secular, the other religious or groping in that direction. As the Bible says, by their works, you shall know them.

An appreciation for the redemptive power of faith is cropping up in the most unlikely places. Lately, our devoutly secular news magazines have discovered that religion treats social trauma.

The April 20 issue of *Time* magazine had an article on "Brother Bill" Tomes of Chicago, a Catholic lay worker who, on 53 occasions, has used his body to keep gangs from shooting up the streets and each other. *Time* comments, "He understands that he can be killed, but he knows that this is the core of his work, and he feels an absolute peace."

Newsweek responded with a June 1 cover story ("God vs. Gangs: What's the Hottest Idea in Crime Fighting? The Power of Religion") on Boston's Rev. Eugene Rivers, a Pentecostal.

The magazine observes that both liberals and conservatives are drawn to the conclusion that: "The only way to rescue kids from the seductions of drug and gang cultures is with another, more powerful set of values.... And the only institution with the spiritual message and the physical presence to offer those traditional values ... is the church.

The inner city isn't the only place where youths are, in the popular expression, "at risk." (Roughly 10% say they regularly bring

a gun to school.) Their need isn't being met by listening to radio talk shows.

Since a 1990 Supreme Court ruling declared them constitutionally kosher, more than 3,000 after-school prayer groups have formed to bring adolescents the word.

In his new book, *Civility*, Yale law professor Stephen Carter identifies the underpinnings of this virtue (the glue that holds society together) as kindness, compassion and a willingness to sacrifice for strangers.

Except for totalitarian ideologies, people aren't drawn to sacrifice for secular ideas. It's been 37 years since a politician called on the American people to sacrifice – to give up something for an ideal.

Carter writes: "A revival of civility in America will require a revival of all that is best in religion as a force in our public life. Only religion possesses the majesty, the power and the sacred language to teach all of us, the religious and the secular, the genuine appreciation for each other on which a successful civility must rest."

It isn't God who's dying, but the archaic notion that we can somehow live without him, that a ship without moorings won't quickly become a storm-tossed wreck.

In the 19th century (the high noon of humanistic optimism), it was still possible to believe that religion was optional. As we reach the bitter dregs of the most godless – and, consequently, most murderous – era in history, that quaint illusion has proven as transitory as the conversation on a morning talk show.

Contact Don Feder through *Creators Syndicate* web page at www.creators.com.

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American Airlines breaks word

■ Company continues promoting radical gay agenda

Disregarding a verbal agreement made with pro-family leaders last spring, American Airlines has continued sponsoring at least one radical gay rights group and actively promoting the homosexual agenda.

"Pro-family groups will obviously be displeased. American Airlines as a company looked us right in the eyes and promised to remain neutral on the issue of the gay agenda," said AFA Director of Public Relations Allen Wildmon. "It has become quite clear now that American had no intention of working with us."

Following a year-long campaign by AFA and other Christian groups, American agreed last March to stop its sponsorship of homosexual parties, and refrain from open advocacy or endorsement of organizations with active political agendas.

Suspensions were soon raised, however, when American Airlines sent a letter to its own gay employee group repudiating the agreement. In the letter, then-Chairman Robert Crandall said, "American does not intend to sever relations with the gay community or the organizations which represent it."

It is now apparent that the letter – and not the verbal agreement with pro-family groups – more accurately revealed the airline's intention. For example, American donated \$25,000 for the annual dinner held by the homosexual activist group Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in November. HRC is the largest homosexual organization in America, and maintains a radical agenda, including efforts to legalize same-sex marriage, help homosexuals adopt children, and grant special

See **AMERICAN AIRLINES** on page 3

CBS earns "Silver Sewer" award

■ Write the top Stern advertisers. See page 22.

Culture critics William Bennett and Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) gave a big thumbs down to the CBS network by giving it the "Silver Sewer" award in December for dumping on the nation a double load of unwanted garbage – Dr. Jack Kevorkian and Howard Stern.

Kevorkian, a fierce advocate of physician-assisted suicide, was shown on CBS's *60 Minutes* administering a lethal injection to a terminally ill man. And Stern has brought his raunchy radio show to late-night Saturday television courtesy of CBS's Television Stations Group and its syndication arm, Eyemark Entertainment.

Bennett is a former high-ranking official in the Reagan and Bush administrations and the author of the book, *The Death of Outrage*. This past spring he and Sen. Lieberman gave their first "Silver Sewer" award to controversial shock-rocker Marilyn Manson and to Seagram, Inc., for sponsoring the scandalous *Jerry Springer Show*.

Regarding the latest award, Lieberman told the Associated Press, "The truth is that the network that once gave us Edward R. Murrow and Jack Benny, and more recently gave us Dan Rather and Dr. Quinn, chose this year to dump Dr. Death and Dr. Depravity into the public square."

Stern's TV show, called *The Howard Stern Radio Show*, continues to be plagued by poor performance up against his late-night Saturday competition, which he promised to obliterate prior to going on the air in August. As he has all season, Stern finished third behind *Saturday Night Live* (NBC) and *MAD TV* (Fox) in the first two weeks of December.

According to the Tampa Bay Tribune, more than a dozen stations have ditched *The Howard Stern Radio Show*, but apparently not because of its consistent last-place finish. All have cited Stern's raunchy antics as the reason. From hav-

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Pornography in the mainstream

BY WILLIAM BENTLEY BALL

NEGATIVISM HAS NOW BECOME A DIRTY WORD, bruited about by liberals to discredit public figures whose utterances they despise. Among these figures are two who are famous for their negativism, William C. Donohue and Donald E. Wildmon. Dr. Donohue heads up the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights; Rev. Wildmon, the American Family Association. Both their groups have large memberships which trumpet the messages of their leaders, enabling them to win the distinction of being named "negativist," "extremist," and, of course, "shrill," by the PAW and the ACLU — odd accusations indeed for these groups to make, who are far more deserving of those epithets.

But there is negativism and then there is negativism. The Donohue/Wildmon brand is a series of steel thrusts against media abuses of freedom of speech — the obscene, the anti-religious, the violent. The thrusts aren't mere denunciations but rather are appeals to reason. Donohue and Wildmon carefully present facts, relating them to moral positions which they (and multitudes of other Americans) hold. Their method is one which observes the virtue of prudence, or, as John Courtney Murray said in words of 40 years ago, "to inject the Catholic tradition of rationality into a mass democracy that is rapidly slipping its moorings in reason." (His words apply equally to Evangelical Wildmon.)

But the critics of Donohue and Wildmon say that they go beyond factual appeals to reason. The protests they promote demand also redress, in the form of an end to specific media evils. The media moguls denounce the protests out of one obvious motivation: money. They are able to enlist three weapons for counter-offensive: the strident outcries of stock liberal activists, the cringing silence of "moderates" within religious bodies who panic at being seen associating with any group accused of extremism, and finally the law. Donohue and Wildmon have scored considerable success in blunting the attacks of the first. Wildmon's targeting of the advertisers who supported Ellen was a

major cause of its cancellation. Donohue has scored brilliantly against ABC's audaciously anti-Catholic contrivances. Nothing succeeds like success, and these victories have, at least a bit, bucked up the courage of the timorous moderates. But as to law: Law has been nothing but helpful to the megamedia and the locals who ape them.

The constitutional law relating to media expression was essentially settled decades ago. The settling came about as a series of conflicts over books and movies became highly publicized. Until the '50s, the popular media could be described as "clean" — not only of obscenity but of what would be offensive to a general Christian and Jewish moral outlook. Movies, magazines, Broadway, and radio held, not to a code of decency, but to the sense of a culture that some today would look back upon as naively innocent. Private codes of decency did come into existence in the '30s. These regulations, such as the Production Code Administration, set up in Hollywood in 1933, the Legion of Decency, and the National Office for Decent Literature, were promoted by the Catholic Church. They were an early response to the slow and slight loosening by our courts of traditional legal restrictions on films and books on the basis of

their alleged tendency (in the phrase they borrowed from Victorian England's Court of Queen's Bench in *Regina v. Hicklin*) "to deprave and corrupt minds."

But by 1957, in *Roth v. United States*, the Supreme Court, chiefly under the guidance of Justice William J. Brennan Jr., had formulated a new test for obscenity — "whether to the average person, applying contemporary community standards, the dominant theme of the material taken as a whole appeals to prurient interest." Picture yourself thereafter as somebody who wants to purvey pornography. Don't the key phrases in that test provide quite permeable barriers to your venture? Aren't "average person" and "taken as a whole" formulas for quibbling? In 1973 the Court was to render the test still looser, and our courts can now find a production non-obscene if it has some wraith of intellectual value and does not describe sex conduct in a "patently offensive way." Attempts to regulate the media, even in the licensing of the publicly owned broadcast spectrum, have all failed under the court's rulings.

In 1998 many city attorneys do attempt to operate against "porn shops" and the making available of the worst of materials

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Disney dollars still in doldrums

■ Eisner promises more 'family films'

As the boycott of The Walt Disney Company continues, more people appear to be taking their entertainment dollars elsewhere. And for the first time, some cracks may be appearing in the company many thought was invincible.

For the fiscal first quarter of 1999 (ending December 31), Disney's earnings dropped 18%. The company's first quarter earnings were down 38% compared to the same quarter last year.

That profit plunge was not an aberration, but had the makings of a nasty little trend for the Mouse. The last two quarters of fiscal 1998 also saw declines — 2% and 31% respectively.

Even when the bad news was leaking out about dramatically lower earnings for the fourth quarter, some analysts speculated that Disney would still exceed 1997 figures by 8%. The real earnings, however, only grew 4% in 1998, which followed

a 48% growth in 1997. Disney Chairman and CEO Michael Eisner had been promising investors an average annual growth of 20%.

The weaker performance also led to a 9.1% drop in Disney's stock price from 1997, while overall the Dow Jones industrials averaged a 16.1% increase over the same period.

In his annual letter to shareholders, Eisner explained why the company was now in relatively shallow financial waters. For the most part, he said, 1998 was a year of "key strategic investments and significant new initiatives."

The Mouse was certainly busy last year investing in projects which the company hopes will be profitable in the long run. Among those investments: the new Animal Kingdom theme park near Walt Disney World; the launching of the

See **DISNEY** on page 3

AFA expands Internet services

American Family Radio (AFR), the broadcast ministry of AFA, is now offering free daily delivery of top news stories via E-mail. In addition, AFR news is updated and posted several times each weekday at <http://www.afr.net>.

To subscribe to this new news service, send an E-mail message to: afrnews-request@list-server.net. There is no need to put anything in the "subject" area of the E-mail message.

In the first line of the body of the E-mail, type: subscribe <your E-mail address>. (For example: subscribe_bob@afo.net.)

AFA has had a major presence on the Internet for several years. In addition to past issues of the *AFA Journal*, AFA's popular home page at <http://www.afa.net> contains updates on ongoing AFA

projects; late breaking news; position papers and commentaries on important issues; and links to a large number of relevant Internet sites.

AFA also keeps citizen activists abreast of vital issues with an E-mail newsletter. The AFA Action Alert now has over 7,000 subscribers. Instructions on how to subscribe are available at AFA's homepage.

American Family Online (AFO) is AFA's unique Internet gateway. Using one of the most effective protection filters available, AFO allows families to explore the Internet free of pornography and other offensive content.

Since AFO's protection filter operates at the server level, it is impossible to override at home. See page 19 for more details including a list of cities with local AFO dial-up numbers.



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The sky isn't falling

BY CHARLES COLSON & NANCY PEARCEY • Reprinted from *Christianity Today*, January 11, 1999

The November elections left moral conservatives perplexed, and no wonder. Even though 70% of Americans oppose partial-birth abortion, voters in two states rejected referenda banning it. Though 65% of Americans disapprove of the President's personal behavior, Democrats made gains while some pro-impeachment congressmen were defeated.

The results deepen a malaise I've sensed among evangelicals over our ability to change the culture. According to exit polls, religious conservatives dropped from 15% of the electorate in 1996 to 13% this year. On all sides I hear battleweary evangelicals talk about abandoning cultural engagement and tending our own backyard instead.

I can't imagine anything more self-defeating, or more ill-timed, for two reasons. First, it is unbiblical. Scripture calls us to bring Christ's redemption to all of life; despair is a sin. Second, to leave the cultural battlefield now would be to desert the cause just when we are on the verge of making a historic breakthrough. I believe John Paul II is exactly right in predicting that the year 2000 will usher in "a great springtime for Christianity." Sound like I'm wearing rose-colored glasses? Consider the evidence.

The revival of moral discourse. Just a year ago it was nearly impossible to discuss serious moral issues in public forums. The consensus was that private morality has no public consequences. But who would say that today? In recent months, I've appeared on several national talk shows discussing repentance and other moral themes.

The tide is turning in the culture war. Richard Nadler notes in *National Review* that most social pathologies are declining: the divorce rate is down 19% since 1981; the birth rate for unmarried teens is down 7.5% since 1994; abortion is down 15.3% since 1990; and there is a whopping 37% decrease in the number of people on welfare since 1993. Even crime is down, despite a surge of teens in the crime-prone years.

Believers ought to be cheering. Like other

leaders in Christian ministries, I know the most effective fundraising is to screech that the sky is falling; but we should resist that temptation. We should inspire hope.

The gods that failed. The most compelling reason for hope comes from looking at deeper, long-term historical trends. The twentieth century was the age of ideology, of the great "isms": communism, socialism, nazism, liberalism, humanism, scientism. Everywhere, ideologues nursed visions of creating the ideal society by some utopian scheme. Whether by revolution or racial purity or scientific technology, these True Believers set out to build a modern Tower of Babel, reaching to the heavens (metaphorically, since most were aggressively secular).

The attitude was captured in the film *Titanic*, when a passenger glances proudly at the ship and declares, "Even God himself could not sink it."

Other idols have sunk just as surely, if not as quickly. Nazism was forever disgraced by the horrors of its concentration camps. The Soviet Union crumbled with the Berlin Wall. Around the globe formerly socialist

nations are eagerly lining up to establish free economies. Liberalism, while still powerful, has lost its luster: American politicians eschew the label. Even science often seems a Frankenstein's monster turning on its creators.

This is the most significant fact at the end of the twentieth century: All the major ideological constructions have failed, tossed on the ash heap of history. For all were based on the same underlying theme: Liberate the individual from the oppression of family, church, and local custom, and he would be autonomous and free. But today it is clear that weakening the moral bonds of family, church, and neighborhood does not lead to freedom but to alienation, loneliness, disorder, and crime — and even to the rise of the totalitarian state.

The dream of autonomy has turned into a nightmare of chaos and coercion. Today the tide is turning as Americans grow desperate for the security found in the moral bonds of family and community.

The only remaining "ism" is postmodernism, which is not an ideology but a repu-

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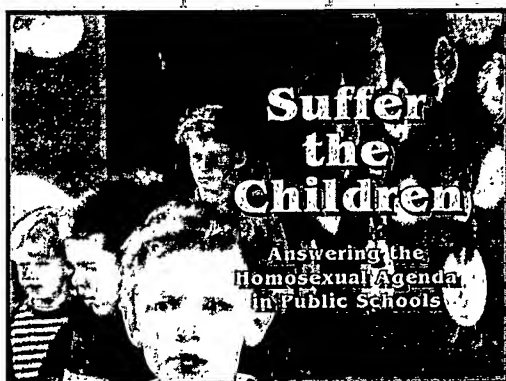
AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

AFA produces video to counter homosexual propaganda film

AFA has long resisted the incessant push of the homosexual movement to insinuate its agenda into public life. Now a pro-homosexual video targeting the nation's public schools has led AFA to produce its own video in response.

In reply to the pro-homosexual video, *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in*

School, AFA has produced and is distributing *Suffer the Children: Answering the Homosexual Agenda in Public Schools*. It takes a critical look at the carefully crafted message of *It's Elementary* by examining segments from the film. AFA's video also shows the ways in which teachers are taught to skillfully manipulate children in or-



Suffer the Children - AFA's video critique offers an in-depth look at homosexual agenda in schools.

der to get them to reach politically correct conclusions about the homosexual lifestyle.

The producers of *It's Elementary* are Helen Cohen and Academy Award-winning documentary producer Debra Chasnoff. In 1992 Chasnoff became the first woman to openly declare her lesbianism at the Oscars.

Although portraying itself as a video that merely teaches children to "respect" differences, *It's Elementary* depicts adults - including parents - as the wellspring of ignorance, bigotry and homophobia. Christianity was the recipient of especially venomous treatment in the video, with Christians portrayed as hate-

See AFA on page 3

Howard Stern's CBS show sagging

■ Big league donut company dunks shock jock

The self-proclaimed "King of All Media" continues to maintain a top-of-the-world ego while his TV show earns bottom-of-the-barrel ratings.

Although he promised to defeat his Saturday night competitors, radio shock jock Howard Stern's television ratings have been nothing short of abysmal. Stern's TV show, called *The Howard Stern Radio Show*, has been cemented in third place behind *Saturday Night Live* (NBC) and *MAD TV* (Fox) since Stern debuted last August.

The Howard Stern Radio Show came to late-night Saturday television courtesy of CBS' Television Stations Group and the network's syndication arm, Eyemark Entertainment.

The content of Stern's show continues to be

as raunchy as ever, according to The AFA Stern Project, which is headed by AFA of Michigan President Bill Johnson. Stern's recent antics include women kissing each other; a contest in which men vied to become the one selected to have sex with a porn star; and Stern passing gas in another man's face.

In a speech to the National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE), Stern called himself "the man who put the 'sin' back into syndication," bragging that he had pushed the boundaries of what was allowed to air on radio and TV.

"I revolutionized this industry," he told the NATPE. "Every time Ricki Lake says the word

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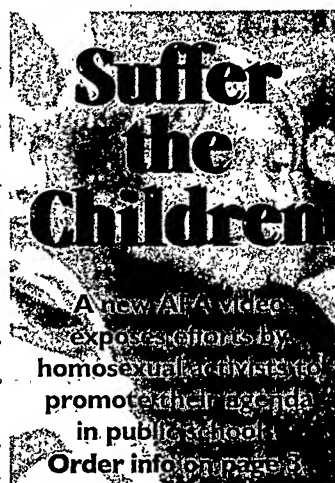
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"We need help so desperately!"

BY RON DEAL, M. MFT.

THE NEED IS REAL. And the call for help is coming from every side. Most recently it came to me from a church elder with a question I've heard many times before, "What do we do? How do we help these people?" Apparently, a trusted friend had told him about a specific ministry I have developed to stepfamilies, and he decided to come by and talk. "This couple is separated," he continued. "He complains that she is too tough on his kids, while she feels that his children are a greater priority to him than she is and that he doesn't discipline them enough. We don't know what to tell them. How do we help?"

His question strikes a familiar cord for church leaders and family ministers who don't understand the needs, dynamics, and challenges of stepfamily life. But they're not the only ones. Stepfamilies themselves are notorious for entering stepfamily life with one set of expectations, only to discover that a stepfamily can't function like a biological family. Roles change, rules for how to interact vary, and loyalties are stretched to the limit, not to mention the challenges of cooperating with another household regarding child visitation, discipline, and family events.

THE CHALLENGE.

I liken the challenges of stepfamily living to putting together a 3-D jig-saw puzzle without instructions and without a picture on the box to show what the final product should look like, while blind-folded! Perhaps that's why nearly 60% of second marriages end in divorce (the rate is even higher for third and subsequent marriages). But we've got to do something. Consider the following statistics:

- 46 of every 100 marriages today is a remarriage for one or both spouses.
- Approximately 1300 new stepfamilies are formed every day.
- By the year 2010 there will be more stepfamilies in the U.S. than any other type of family.
- One out of three Americans is now a

stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, or some other member of a stepfamily; and soon that number will be one out of two.

Despite these realities, stepfamilies remain one of the most neglected groups in churches today. In fact, I'm not sure we even know there's a problem. But we better hurry to respond or we'll find ourselves on the outside looking in. Now more than ever, stepfamilies are looking for 1) educational programs to equip them for successful living; and 2) churches that show care and a redemptive spirit. They need help and want to belong. And you can help.

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

- Learn all you can about stepfamilies. Write or E-mail me and I'll send you a reading and resource list of helpful books, web pages, and Bible course curriculum.
- Talk with stepfamilies in your church and community. Listen to their stories and felt needs. Ask them to help you start and coordinate a support group or class effort.
- Modify your pre-remarriage counseling programs to address the hidden challenges of stepfamily life. Couples need to know what lies ahead.

➤ Sponsor a "Building A Successful Stepfamily" seminar. This week-end event: 1) Sends a message of "welcome" to stepfamilies and is an excellent bridge event to your community; 2) Provides practical information on successful stepfamily living; 3) Helps participants develop a Personal Integration Plan and gain resources in the 90-page seminar manual; 4) Helps churches launch a support group following the seminar; and 5) Equips church leaders to better minister to stepfamilies.

We cannot ignore the call for help anymore. Even before attending a stepfamily seminar, one woman wrote me, "Thank you so much for addressing such a needy and neglected population of our spiritual brethren. We need help so desperately!"

Ron Deal is Family Life Minister for the Southwest Church of Christ in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Family Life Educator. For a seminar schedule or other information:

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UMC jury finds pastor guilty of performing same-sex ceremony

■ 69 other pastors may face similar charges

A guilty verdict in the ecclesiastical trial of a pastor who performed a same-sex "holy union" ceremony for two homosexual men has once again shaken the United Methodist Church (UMC) over the issue of homosexuality.

The Rev. Greg Dell, pastor of Broadway United Methodist Church in Lakeview, Illinois, and a minister for nearly 30 years, was found guilty of breaking church law by a jury of 13 ministers.

The jury also handed out a penalty that may effectively defrock Dell: he is suspended from further ministry, beginning July 5, until he promises never to perform another same-sex commitment

ceremony. Dell has repeatedly said he would never make such a pledge.

The controversy surrounding homosexuality has threatened to split the nation's second-largest Protestant denomination. While the pro-homosexual minority has grown increasingly vocal, the UMC has taken steps to crystallize the denomination's position.

In 1996 the UMC's General Conference, which governs the 8.5-million member denomination, voted 2-1 to explicitly prohibit its ministers from performing same-sex unions or its churches to host such ceremonies.

But controversy erupted last year when Nebraska pastor Rev. Jimmy Creech was also placed on trial for performing a commitment ceremony

See **UMC** on page 3

Disney knew about pedophile past, says "Powder" director

■ Lesbian activist gets own Disney cable show

Controversial movie director Victor Salva, sent to prison after being convicted on charges of child molestation, now says The Walt Disney Company knew about his sex crime when he was hired to produce the movie *Powder*.

According to *Daily Variety*, Salva served 19 months of a three-year sentence for having sex with 12-year-old Nathan Winters when the boy starred in Salva's first film, *Clownhouse*. Salva, an admitted-homosexual, pleaded guilty to lewd and lascivious conduct, having sexual relations with a child under 14, and procuring a child for pornography.

When the press reported Salva's sordid past just prior to the release of *Powder* in 1995, Disney claimed it had had no idea of Salva's record.

But Salva told *Daily Variety* that Disney's story is basically just baloney. The Disney outrage, he said, was "all a dog-and-pony act, a bunch of

guys just covering their [backsides.]"

DISNEY CONTINUES ANTI-FAMILY WAYS

Meanwhile, after more than a year in which the Mouse House seemed to be watching its family-friendly Ps & Qs, Disney seems ready to launch out once more into controversial waters.

Well-known lesbian activist entertainer Melissa Etheridge has been given her own show on Disney's Lifetime cable network. Her show, *How Could It Happen?*, will be a reality-based show focusing on how the ordinary lives of women are changed by simple twists of fate, according to *Ultimate TV*.

Etheridge has been a strident spokeswoman for the homosexual movement, generating publicity with appearances on the covers of such magazines as *Modern Woman*, *Musician*, *Girl*

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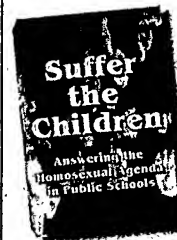
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AFA's new video answers the homosexual agenda in public schools. See page 12 for ordering information.

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Book challenges must follow proper legal process

BY BRYAN J. BROWN • Staff Attorney, AFA Center for Law and Policy

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD

Johnny popped into the kitchen, hopping to grab a snack before dinner. While negotiating for an untimely ice cream bar, he glibly asked his mother if she "ever knew anyone who paid to have sex with dead people?"

"What did you say?" his father roared from his Lazy-Boy. Where did this innocent, Sunday school-loving child ever get such horrible ideas? Quite possibly from his school library.

A pastor recently contacted the AFA Center for Law & Policy, thunderstruck by the happenings in his small Wisconsin town of Medford. The book *Iceman*, written by Chris Lynch and endorsed as a "Best Book" for young adults (sixth through eighth graders) by American Library Association, was found in the local junior high library.

Iceman tells the fictional tale of a 14-year-old, prone-to-violence hockey player who has an unhealthy obsession with death. The book is laced with four-letter words, blasphemous slang, and repeated interviews with a creepy mortician who claims to "pimp for the dead folks I got."

A committee of parents and educators in Medford reviewed *Iceman*, and by majority vote recommended that it be removed from the library. The town newspaper and its attorney cried censorship and threatened litigation.

Thus the question was raised: Can a school remove objectionable library books without running afoul of the First Amendment? The answer is a decided "yes." But such removal should only be attempted according to guidelines deduced from the Supreme Court's *Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982).



1. Fashion a Policy

Review of any book reported to be unsuitable for the school library should be undertaken pursuant to guidelines drafted well ahead of the challenge. Thus parents should write their school board and inquire as to the policy for removal of an offensive book prior to actually making a request that a particular book be removed. If the school board has no such policy, one must be drafted.

The policy should create an appointed review committee, made up of parents and educators. Committees members should serve by designation of the school board, not by election; for the courts look for a committee removed from politics and partisan pressure. Parents who care should volunteer to sit on the committee.

2. Lodge a Complaint

Once such policies are in place, any parent can recommend a book be reviewed. Over-reactions should be avoided. That is, the books targeted should be truly offensive and patently unsuitable.

Once a book is challenged as being unsuitable, the school board must refer the book to the reviewing committee. The re-

view committee must then read and research the book, taking into account, at a minimum, the following: the book's educational suitability, good taste, relevance, and age-appropriateness. Any and all published reviews, especially by professional associations, should be discussed and considered. Alternatives to removal should be considered.

3. Document Your Reasoning

The committee should decide, by majority vote, whether to retain the book in the library, or have it removed. If removal, then the majority should put their reasons in writing. Acceptable reasons include that the book was found to be "pervasively vulgar" or "educationally unsuitable." The latter topic would be germane if the book undertook discussion of adult and arcane subjects, such as necrophilia or other perversions.

Unacceptable reasons would be that the book was "un-American," religiously intolerable, or other such viewpoint specific charges supporting the conclusion that the book was removed in a bid to prescribe an orthodoxy in "politics, nationalism, religion or other matters of opinion."

The school board must then review the committee's recommendation. Like the committee, the school board should document the reasons supporting its action. If challenged, the courts will review the entire process, ensuring that the removal was undertaken through "established, regular and facially unbiased procedures for the review of controversial materials."

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Stern blasted for comments about Colorado tragedy

■ Major sponsors drop program as fallout spreads

Radio shock jock Howard Stern outraged people in Colorado and across the nation when he joked about the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, a Denver suburb. In that tragedy, 12 students and one teacher were shot to death when two classmates went on a violent rampage with guns and explosives. The two killers then committed suicide.

On the air the day after the killings, Stern joked about why the killers didn't sexually assault a few girls before committing suicide, and said that if it had been him, he would have done so. Stern's daily radio show is carried in Denver on KXPB-FM. (To listen to a recording of Stern's actual comments, go to www.afa.net.)

Stern was immediately condemned in Denver. In the Denver Rocky Mountain News, editors said, "Either we are serious about showing respect for the dead and their families or we aren't. Either we care about the quality of our culture or we don't. Let Howard Stern make his millions in other broadcast markets. He does not belong in Denver." The editorial called for KXPB to cancel Stern's show.

The Denver Post, in a similar editorial, also called on KXPB to drop Stern, as did the Colorado legislature. Both houses in that state passed a measure which formally censured Stern and demanded that he publicly apologize to Colum-

See **STERN** on page 3

Disney income plummets again

■ Boycott squeezes Mouse

In what many see as further evidence of the growing effectiveness of the boycott of The Walt Disney Co., that company's income dropped sharply for the second fiscal quarter. It was the fourth consecutive quarter in which Disney's net income dropped.

For the quarter ending March 31, net income at the Mouse House fell 41%, driven by lagging sales of Disney merchandise and videos. Although part of the decline was due to the company's purchase of the Internet search engine Infoseek, even without that investment Disney's income dropped 30%.

"As this boycott of Walt Disney continues to grow, the company's going to find more and more people abandoning the good ship Disney, because families are discovering some of the rotten cargo on board," said AFA president Donald E. Wildmon. "People are shopping around for other family entertainment choices."

DISNEY DITCHES DOGMA

Beyond the financial impact, part of the boycott's impact may be on the psyche of Mouse shot-callers. In a recent move, Disney subsidiary Miramax divested itself of *Dogma*, an upcoming movie that was sure to offend Christians and stoke the boycott fires.

The film is a blasphemous look at orthodox Christian beliefs (hence the title). Some of the offensive elements in *Dogma*: God is portrayed as a woman who comes to earth as an old man to play the carnival game skeeball; the heroine is a descendant of Mary and Joseph and works in an abortion clinic; a foul-mouthed 13th apostle comes to earth complaining that he was martyred for telling the truth about the sex lives of the other apostles; beer-swilling angels; an updated Christ who, according to the New York Post, "no longer hangs from the cross but instead offers a thumbs-up salute."

The content of *Dogma*, combined with the boycott, apparently made Disney execs nervous.

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Believe it: TV violence stalks streets of Littleton – and your town

BY PHILIP MEYER

AS PART OF ITS COVERAGE Tuesday evening of the mass murders in Littleton, Colorado, *CNN Headline News* had a well-prepared segment on the possibility that television and movie violence create a social atmosphere that makes such horrors possible.

It was a breakthrough. The story was backed up with clips from violent entertainment and expert testimony based on academic studies of the issue.

Usually, news media prefer to ignore this old story. How old? How long has there been scientific evidence that TV violence breeds real life violence?

More than a generation

As in the case of tobacco, the health hazards of violent television were recognized by experts and even by government agencies long before public awareness began to build.

In 1968, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence was created.

In 1972, there was a report by a surgeon general's committee: "Television and Growing Up: The Impact of Televised Violence."

By 1976, the case was so obvious that the American Medical Association's House of Delegates passed this resolution:

"The House declares TV violence threatens the health and welfare of young Americans, commits itself to remedial actions with interested parties, and encourages opposition to TV programs containing violence and to their sponsors."

Part of the reason that so little of this information has filtered into public awareness is that the media gatekeepers don't like to think about it. It is a problem whose only obvious solution, censorship, seems unthinkable. Denial is easier.

One of the most dramatic and convincing demonstrations of the truth of the TV-violence connection came in this decade when a prediction made by Brandon Centerwall, then of the University of Wash-

ington, came true.

Centerwall was aware that different parts of the world got television at different times. Therefore, he reasoned, TV's effects should show up at correspondingly different times.

The United States was ahead of other countries. Our TV broadcasting got off the ground in the late 1940s. Our neighbor, Canada, was on approximately the same schedule.

Ten years later, just as the first U.S. generation raised on television reached the vulnerable crime-committing years, the homicide rate began a steep climb. After 15 years, it had doubled. Canada had the same experience.

To nail down the cause-effect relationship, Centerwall needed a nation where television had arrived late. He found it in South Africa, where the repressive government had banned TV until 1975. Better yet for his purposes, the low rate of white homicide deaths in South Africa held constant in the same period that it doubled in the United States and Canada.

When he discovered that, Centerwall

made his prediction. In 1989, looking at the most recent data available to him – which was five years old – he predicted that South Africa's white homicide rate would show a doubling in the period 1985 to 1990, which would be 10 to 15 years after the introduction of television in 1975. It did – and more.

Looking at 1983 data, Centerwall could see that the rate had already increased by 56% from 2.5 homicides per 100,000 in the final year before TV. When 1987 data became available, it showed the rate had reached 5.8 per 100,000. The doubling took place on schedule.

The same differences were found in U.S. subpopulations. Blacks got TV sets later than whites, and their homicide rate increased later by the same margin of delay. A small Canadian town out of reach of the first TV transmitters enjoyed a temporary immunity that went away after technology brought it into the media mainstream.

By 1992, when he reported the South African figures in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Centerwall had

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Bumble Bee Tuna stings Stern

■ CBS' silence on shock-jock is deafening

Raunchy radio and television personality Howard Stern continues to drive away major advertisers after the shock-jock made scornful comments about the shooting tragedy in Littleton, Colorado. Meanwhile, the company responsible for putting Stern on the air has thus far taken no action to rein in the monster it created.

Bumble Bee Tuna was the latest major sponsor of Stern's five-hour daily radio broadcast to drop the show following his comments, when he joked about the high school massacre that left 12 students and one teacher dead, and the two classmates who were responsible for the violence dead by their own hand. The day after the killings, Stern laughingly made on-air disparaging sexual remarks regarding the perpetrators and

their victims.

A number of advertisers who had been Stern's most cheerful sponsors — despite the shock-jock's scandalous antics in the past — finally seemed to have reached their limit. Geico Direct Insurance, online bookseller Amazon.com, Snapple beverage company, and Joseph A. Bank Clothier all pulled out of the show because of Stern's comments.

Other national sponsors, however, still seem intent on keeping the Stern garbage floodgates fully operational. Disney, Mitsubishi, Subway and Toyota, among other companies, have made no public move to disassociate their products from Howard Stern.

But the past stubborn support for Stern com-

See **STERN** on page 3

PBS stations refusing AFA video

■ Stations airing It's Elementary instead

Airing both sides of a controversial issue wasn't much of a consideration to the many PBS and other public television stations that were planning on airing the pro-homosexual film, *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School*. Virtually every station that intended to air that video refused to air AFA's video response. AFA produced a 30-minute video entitled *Suffer the Children: Answering the Homosexual Agenda in Public Schools*.

"So much for the free exchange of ideas which is supposed to be the hallmark of public television," said AFA president Donald E. Wildmon. "Homosexual activists and those sympathetic to that movement only intend to present one side of this issue — and it won't be ours. The religious and moral views of millions and millions of Americans just don't count on public television."

It's Elementary is a slick production meant to instruct public school teachers how they can teach children — as young as elementary school

age — that "gay is O.K." The video camouflages its real message of acceptance of homosexuality under the guise of "respect for all."

"This is now a standard tactic of the homosexual movement," said Wildmon. "By promising to protect kids from anti-gay violence, the message in these classrooms winds up being that people who think homosexuality is unnatural or morally wrong are hate-filled bigots who are responsible for anti-gay violence."

The producers of *It's Elementary* have had tremendous success getting the film into the hands of those sympathetic to its message. The video has been shown in nearly 500 college and university teacher training programs, and in faculty and staff in-service training in over 200 public school districts.

Early on, AFA alerted its supporters (*AFA Journal*, June, 1997) to the potential dangers of *It's Elementary*. But when AFA discovered that the producers of that video were successfully

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BY CHARLES W. COLSON



Earn credit! Watch porn!

■ False salvations in the classroom

BARBARA HAS JUST STARTED HER first year at a prestigious college where she signed up for a film class. But when the lights dimmed, Barbara was shocked to find herself watching a graphic and explicit pornographic movie. The film was typical of what the class would be studying that semester, the professor announced. So Barbara grabbed her backpack and walked out.

The name is made up, but the scenario is real. In a recent issue of the *New Yorker*, James Atlas notes that colleges across the country are starting courses in so-called "porn studies." Classes on pornography are offered at NYU, Northwestern, Columbia, and several other schools. Porn stars are popular lecturers on college campuses. For example, Larry Flynt, of all people, just gave a lecture at Georgetown University, a Catholic school. Tenured professors lecture on what Atlas calls the "porn-scholar circuit."

How did undergraduates go from reading *The Iliad* to watching *Debbie Does Dallas*? The answer lies with the postmodernist assumption that the purpose of art is to subvert social and moral norms.

Postmodernism is the logical conclusion of the Enlightenment rejection of Christianity. For if we live in a universe without God, then nature is all there is, and morality is reduced to whatever culture constructs it to be. To get to the core of who we really are, we must strip away everything socially constructed and reconnect with the natural—with our impulses and instincts.

Like sexuality.

In the words of film professor Linda Williams, "Sex is now seen as the motive force of our beings"—as our ultimate identity. For in the sexual act we immerse ourselves in the instinctual, the uncontrollable. As Williams writes, sex is "ultimate BECAUSE [it is] uncontrollable." Liberation lies in unmasking all social and moral controls on sexuality, and immersing ourselves in sheer biological impulses.

Liberation ideologies of all sorts have found American college campuses wonderful breeding grounds, from neo-Marxism to radical feminism. And pornography is merely the latest fad, not as simple titillation but as a means to cast off the

moral rules and norms. Instead, it is rooted in a worldview—beginning with the idea that nature is all there is, and ending with a message of salvation through sex. As a result, we must fight the battle on the level of worldview versus worldview, argu-

For if we live in a universe without God, then nature is all there is, and morality is reduced to whatever culture constructs it to be.

forces of repression and to reform society. As porn professor Laura Kipnis explains, "On the cultural left, there's been a loss of faith in traditional ideologies as a potential agent of social change," so the left has turned to "inner change"—defined primarily as discovering the true nature of one's sexuality.

In short, sexual liberation is nothing less than a substitute salvation. It aims at freeing the inner self from the evils of repression and returning to its original wholeness—and then renewing the rest of society.

If we want to stand against the sexualizing of American culture, we must realize that its cause is not merely the erosion of

ing against naturalism and all its works and all its ways. We must show that the Christian worldview offers a much fuller vision of human nature and a higher view of human dignity, and a more transforming vision of redemption.

Moral outrage is not enough. We must counter false salvations with the true salvation, and show people that true liberation is found only in the Gospel.

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AFA debates activists over homosexual promo video

■ Most PBS stations refusing equal time

The issue of whether society should tolerate, accept or even celebrate homosexuality has become one of the most volatile cultural issues of the 1990s. But nothing seems to generate more passion – on both sides of the ideological divide – than the question of whether schools, even as early as kindergarten, should be teaching children that “gay is O.K.”

That subject’s flashpoint seems to be developing around two videos that represent two mutually exclusive worldviews. *It’s Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School*, advocates that children be taught to accept homosexuality. A counter video, produced by AFA and titled *Suffer the Children: Answering the Homosexual Agenda in Public Schools*, takes a critical look at the message of *It’s Elementary* and the manner in which children are manipulated into arriving at

politically correct conclusions about the issue.

AFA has covered the subject of *It’s Elementary* in detail since it first surfaced in 1996. But it wasn’t until that video’s producers, lesbian Debra Chasnoff and homosexual advocate Helen Cohen, had successfully pushed to have *It’s Elementary* aired on some PBS stations that AFA decided to produce a rebuttal piece.

In April AFA vice president Tim Wildmon sent a letter to every PBS station in the country, expressing the ministry’s concerns about *It’s Elementary*’s message. In the letter Wildmon asked station managers, “If you do choose to air *It’s Elementary*, would you consider giving equal time to the other side of this issue with a program under essentially the same terms?” In order to facilitate Wildmon’s concept of equal time,

See AFA on page 3

Stern TV show hits ratings basement

■ Shock-jock dropped by third of stations

Although he calls himself the “King of All Media” and promised to bury his late-night Saturday TV competition, Howard Stern has failed to achieve anything more than peasant status and has watched his competition do the digging.

The Howard Stern Radio Show, as his syndicated television show is called, has failed to extract itself from third place since it debuted in August, 1998, behind *Saturday Night Live* (NBC) and *Mad-TV* (Fox).

According to *New York Now*, the latest Nielsen numbers show Stern’s TV show crashing to a new ratings low. The shock jock’s June 12 program fell 25% from the previous week, to a worst-ever 0.9 rating (as a percentage of the nation’s more than 99 million homes).

Moreover, according to AFA’s Stern Project, which monitors both Stern’s daily radio broad-

cast and the TV show, a third of the stations that originally began airing the television series have now dropped it. At last count, only 55 outlets were airing the raunchy series, down from 79 when the show launched.

Stern’s radio show has also been having trouble attracting and keeping advertisers. Several big advertisers have abandoned the show due to its vile content, including Snapple, Bumble Bee Tuna, Geico Insurance, Joseph A. Banks Clothier, Amazon.com and RCN Internet.

Nationally known advertisers who stubbornly continue to advertise on Stern’s radio show include:

- ABC/The Walt Disney Co., Chrm. Michael Eisner, 500 S. Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521, Phone: 818-560-1000
- Toyota Motor Sales USA (See address on page 15.)

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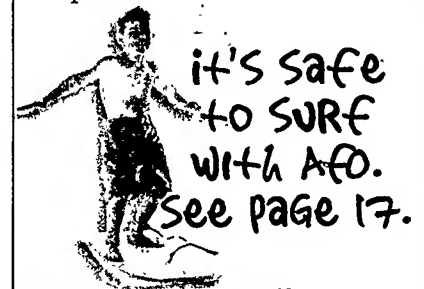
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Community meets Manson fans with message of Christ's love

■ *Concert goers get pizza instead of protests*

When shock-rocker Marilyn Manson was scheduled to play Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on April 28, the climate was ripe for a confrontation, since only a few days earlier the band's music had been linked to the Columbine High School shootings.

According to Mark Forstrom, Youth Pastor at New Covenant Bible Church, a local movement had begun to oppose the concert with pickets and protests. Local law enforcement and media seemed to be poised for an ugly scene. "The outlook was grim," Forstrom wrote in an "official praise report" after the concert.

Then something amazing happened. Through E-mail exchanges "...another local movement suddenly sprang to life — that the only way to truly change our moral climate [is] to soften hard hearts. (The hearts of Manson fans have been hardened by their perception that Christians are mean-spirited, hateful, and judgmental.) Thus, the idea was birthed to unravel that stereotype by encouraging Christians to show the pure love of Christ to these fans in tangible ways."

As the concert day arrived, tension filled the community, Forstrom said. "Some [Manson] fans had actually expressed being fearful of going downtown because of what the 'Christian freaks' might do to hurt or harass them..."

But what happened surprised nearly everyone. "Scores of Christians from churches all over Linn County and as far away as Des Moines (two hours away) converged on the sidewalks outside the Five Seasons Center, to do two positive things: pray, and to show unmistakable love," Forstrom reported.

People prayed in huddles on the sidewalk. Others conducted prayer walks around the arena. Churches around the city held special prayer meetings. Youth groups met for special times of prayer. People all over the U. S. were praying. As many as 20 pastors and Christian leaders went into the concert arena to pray..."

Meanwhile outside the concert hall, Christians gave away over 100 pizzas, 1200 drinks and candy to fans standing in line.

A local pastor told a newspaper reporter, "We want the kids here to know not all Christians are judgmental or hate-mongers. Our desire is...to reach out to them with the love of Christ and to let them know we care about them."

Forstrom said that a local youth group even collected money to pay for parking fees of the Manson fans. "We're Christian and we'd like to show you God's love by paying for your parking tonight," they would tell concert goers.

The testimony was powerful, Forstrom said. "Many [Manson fans] showed a 'this does not compute' look as they scratched their heads in bewilderment," he wrote. At least three people came to faith in Christ.

Inside the concert arena, Forstrom writes that God was at work as well. "After only an hour, Manson abruptly ended the concert early. During his Nazi/antichrist stage set, he suddenly flew into a rage: he threw his microphone to the ground, knocked the drum set off its platform, and

stormed off the stage, never to return!... The crowd shouted, 'Manson, Manson, Manson,' but he never returned....

"...News reports say he went into an absolute rage when he saw a large smiley face on a stage prop that had been placed by one of his own crew members, presumably as a joke on the last concert of the tour.

Some fans then became so angry with him [for] cutting short the concert that a riot erupted.... In the end the police had to use riot control tactics to bring order and 23 of them were arrested over this incident...."

Forstrom said he received over 400 encouraging E-mails after the concert. Comments included:

"I have never been prouder to be in the body of Christ than I was this last week. Praise God!"

"Jesus affected people by His love, and so should we. I surely have been convicted about my attitude towards non-Christians."

"...if we, as the church will clearly communicate the love of Christ wherever we are, we'll find that we're transforming lives, families, communities, and our nation." ☸

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AFA law center scores big win

■ Victory gained for religious freedom

The American Family Association Center for Law & Policy (CLP) settled a federal lawsuit against the city of Fountain Valley, California, which had used zoning laws to close down a small immigrant church.

The lawsuit was filed in federal district court in Santa Ana on behalf of Shalom Alliance Fellowship, a church with about 30 Chinese and Filipino members. The church had been forced to close its doors after the city discovered that they were meeting in a store front, in violation of city codes. The telltale evidence? A city inspector found chairs lined up in a row along with Bibles, hymnals, and a piano. That was enough to convince the city that the law had been violated.

The city had banned churches in areas zoned for commercial use because they didn't generate tax revenue. According to CLP Senior Trial Attorney Brian Fahling, the practical effect of the city's zoning scheme was to exclude churches

completely from Fountain Valley.

In the lawsuit, Fahling noted that the city allowed other non-tax generating uses such as meeting halls, lodges, fraternities and sororities in commercial zones.

"There was an important constitutional issue involved in this case," Fahling said. "What Fountain Valley did was let other similar groups use commercially-zoned property while treating churches like the ugly step-sister."

Fountain Valley agreed to settle the case by formally reversing its ban and by paying Shalom Alliance Fellowship damages as well as attorney's fees. Fahling commended the city for its response.

"The city and its attorney reacted swiftly and comprehensively in a way I have never seen before," he said. "There was a genuine sense that they had made a mistake and moved quickly to correct it."

See AFA on page 3

Radical library organization pushes unrestricted access to pornography

■ New AFA video warns of danger to children

AFA has kicked off a campaign to reclaim our nation's public libraries, initiating a showdown with a relatively unknown, but powerful, entity within the liberal establishment: the American Library Association (ALA).

Founded in 1876, the ALA is a private, non-profit organization that claims to be "the oldest and largest national library association in the world," with a membership of 55,573.

The ALA opposes any restrictions on access to pornography in public libraries—even for children. The ALA's Library Bill of Rights states that a "person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views." (Emphasis added.)

ALA spokesman Richard Matthews said, "We

recognize that minors have First Amendment rights, and any attempt to treat them differently from adults really infringes on those rights."

AFA and other pro-family groups have called for filtering software to be placed on library computers. The software would block attempts by children—whether by accident or intent—to access porn.

The ALA opposes such solutions with startling vehemence. Judith Krug, director of the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom, said, "Blocking material leads to censorship. That goes for pornography and bestiality too. If you don't like it, don't look at it."

So rabidly does the ALA hold to such views,

See RADICAL on page 22

By STAR PARKER



God, not government, brings personal responsibility that many need

Vice President Al Gore now says he thinks churches and faith-based organizations should partner with government to do charity work, but only if they leave out their spiritual component when they do so. Speaking from personal experience as a former welfare mother, I think Gore made a big mistake when he added that "but only if."

Letting private religious charities administer welfare services is a common-sense approach to the transition from welfare to independence. But they need to be allowed to offer their clients spiritual support. The first step welfare mothers must take if they are to mainstream their lives is to understand that they have a moral obligation to be personally responsible and self-sufficient. You cannot understand morality without God.

Such support was vital for me during my transition from welfare. The government told me I was the victim. It was a local faith-based organization that helped me get off welfare by providing the spiritual dimension, which put the onus on me.

But leftist organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union are fighting the charitable-choice provision of the 1996 welfare reform law that says states that contract out welfare services must not discriminate against faith-based organizations and private charities. Democrats claim to care about liberating poor people, yet they are willing to cut off black welfare mothers from the very organ that will enable them to heal themselves: the church. Government officials continue to say they care about the plight of these women and will do anything to make the transition easier, yet they too are intimidated by the hostility of separatist groups who fight faith-based participation.

The reason outreach programs such as the Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles and Payne Memorial Outreach in Baltimore are so successful is simple: They allow people to reform their lives by first establishing a relationship with God. These

groups administer their services with very low overhead and administrative cost. Many of the counselors and staff are volunteers and former recipients themselves.

The first step welfare mothers must take if they are to mainstream their lives is to understand that they have a moral obligation to be personally responsible and self-sufficient. You cannot understand morality without God.

They know firsthand what to do.

Government has tried charity work without God. It found out it doesn't work well.

Instead, we should let taxpayers decide where their charitable money goes. Allow individuals to receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for their financial support of local outreach ministries and community-based organizations that assist welfare mothers in the transition from welfare to work. Give recipients the right to choose what facility they want to assist in the reformation of their lives and whether that assistance will include spiritual aid.

Churches and local community groups are the only ones that can give these women the emotional and spiritual support they need while they change their lives for the better.

Star Parker (info@urbancure.org) is founder and president of the Coalition on Urban Renewal and Education, an educational center and research foundation in Los Angeles.

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State sues AFA affiliate for \$300 million for opposing gambling bill

American Family Association of Alabama and its president, Tom Blackerby, have been named in a lawsuit in state court by a county government and a dog race track for publicly opposing a gambling bill. Other pro-family groups who spoke out against the measure have also been named in the suit, which seeks \$50 million in compensatory damages and \$250 million in punitive damages.

This past April the Alabama state legislature narrowly defeated a proposal which would have legalized video poker on the premises of dog racing tracks, already legal in Alabama. Pro-family groups see video poker as a particularly addictive form of gambling, especially within an atmosphere which already promotes betting.

AFA of Alabama and other pro-family groups, which had actively and publicly opposed the bill, were named in the lawsuit in August just four months after the law's defeat. Stephen M. Crampton, chief counsel for the AFA Center for Law & Policy (CLP), which is defending Blackerby and AFA of Alabama, thinks the timing of the suit is no coincidence.

"In October 1999 there is a statewide refer-

endum in Alabama on the creation of a state lottery, and it's a big issue," Crampton said. "This lawsuit appears to be an attempt to neutralize pro-family forces before the initiative comes to a vote, in an effort to pass the lottery measure."

Brian Fahling, senior trial attorney for CLP, said the most disappointing aspect of the lawsuit was that the government of Greene County was participating, presumably because the county stood to make money off video poker.

"It is almost inconceivable that taxpayer dollars would be used to fund a lawsuit designed to punish some of the very same citizens who paid the taxes in the first place," Fahling said. "This lawsuit is clear retaliation by government officials against those with whom they disagree."

Retaliation, said Crampton, is contrary to our concept of government. "Ordinary citizens should be active in the political arena. This lawsuit is the equivalent of Bob Dole suing Bill Clinton because he campaigned against Dole and won the 1996 presidential election. This is the scorched earth policy of so many people in politics nowadays. If you have an enemy, take him down using any means necessary."

Major television advertisers to fund new crop of 'family-friendly' shows

Eleven major television advertisers have banded together to fund TV programs that are more appealing to families, in an attempt to provide more advertising choices for sponsors. (See list on page 22.)

According to the August 11 Wall Street Journal, Proctor & Gamble (P&G), General Motors, International Business Machines, Johnson & Johnson, Wendy's, Sears and others have joined together to pay for the development of as many as eight "family-friendly" shows that would air on the WB network.

"This is an important step forward in the

ongoing battle to clean up television," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. "We've been saying for more than 20 years that the wild card in that effort is the advertiser. These sponsors make television possible, and if Hollywood won't listen to parental concerns about what is on the tube, Hollywood will listen to the ones who pay the bills."

The advertisers have been pushing Hollywood to provide more programming choices which contain less sex, violence and profanity. (See *AFA Journal*, 6/99.) Now it appears that at least some of the biggest sponsors are willing to

See **MAJOR** on page 22

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"Hope"

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A little planning can go a long way

YEAR-END GIVING TIPS FROM AFA FOUNDATION

In 1990 Jim and Linda bought \$2500 worth of stock in a then unknown electronics company. Today that stock is worth \$10,000. If they sold the stock, they would incur \$1,500 in capital gains taxes on their \$7,500 profit. (The maximum capital gains tax rate for securities held over 12 months is 20%.)

Instead, the couple gave the stock to American Family Association, saving \$3960 in income tax. (They are in the 39.6% tax bracket.) They also saved the \$1,500 in capital gains tax. Their total savings: \$5460. After-tax cost: only \$4540.

The benefits of year-end giving simply make good stewardship sense:

- Potential tax savings from charitable deductions
- Increased income from non-productive or low-producing property
- Avoidance of capital gains tax on highly appreciated property
- Income tax deductions this year for

gifts actually made in future years

- Personal satisfaction in knowing that you are involved in a worthwhile mission.

But to receive these benefits, planning is essential. To assist you, Ameri-

can Family Association Foundation has prepared a special planning report, *How to Maximize Your Year-End Giving*.

To request your free copy of this useful report, or if you need help in planning your year-end giving, simply call 1-800-326-4543, Ext 206. There is no obligation.

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Network TV hits new low

■ Fewer viewers, more sex

So what's on the tube tonight? Let's see, the new fall season is under way, and featured on prime-time network television are...bestiality, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, and pedophilia. There are endless jokes about all sorts of sexual situations and perversions. What's going on?

What's going on is simple: network TV is being produced by people who want more sex — not less — for a culture that is still not sure it wants sex on the tube at all.

The result is a schizophrenic culture where nobody is happy. Hollywood writers and producers feel constrained by whatever remains of society's standards of decency, while many adults — especially parents — feel assaulted by filthy shows that have little or no entertainment value.

Nevertheless, Hollywood wants more, and

that's what counts. Fox Entertainment President Doug Herzog said, "I think we need to keep pushing the envelope, I think we need to be relevant and keep on exploring and experimenting. That's what the audience expects from Fox, and I think that's what the audience demands in general right now from network television."

Herzog could not be more wrong. Besides the cancellation of *Manchester Prep*, other vulgar Fox shows appear to be in trouble. *Action*, also controversial because of its bawdy content, has gotten poor ratings, as has the smutty prime-time cartoon *Family Guy*. The audience demand for smut may be lower than Herzog thinks.

"This is the show for you"

On the Hollywood side of the equation, the expectation seems to be that viewers are leering per-

See **NETWORK** on page 3

Judge halts suit against AFA of Alabama

A federal district court in Birmingham, Alabama, issued an injunction prohibiting the continued prosecution of a state lawsuit brought by Greene County, Alabama, against AFA of Alabama and other pro-family groups and individuals for their successful opposition to video poker legislation in Alabama last April.

According to Brian Fahling, senior trial attorney for the American Family Association Center for Law & Policy (CLP), which represented AFA of Alabama, the federal injunction was critical to protecting the First Amendment rights of the defendants. (See *AFA Journal*, 10/99.)

Fahling said the state lawsuit filed in late August by Greene County Commission, Greene County Board of Education, and Greene Track, Inc., against AFA of Alabama and others was "without question the most bizarre and disturbing lawsuit" he had ever seen. "They wanted over \$300 million dollars in damages simply because our clients and others exercised their First Amendment rights to defeat video-poker legislation."

Stephen Crampton, CLP chief counsel, said

the lawsuit looked like an attempt to intimidate opponents of an Alabama state lottery.

The federal court sensed the same thing. In its opinion ordering the preliminary injunction, the court stated that because of "the close proximity of the October [state] lottery vote, and the overall dubious tenor of the complaint, the Greene County lawsuit fairly reeks of bad faith and harassing intentions on the part of the Greene County plaintiffs."

"It is incredible that government officials joined with a gambling interest to go after family groups merely for seeking to protect the families of Alabama from the evils of gambling," Crampton said. "The lawsuit by the Greene County government and School Board certainly did not reflect the will and character of the citizens of Greene County."

That seemed to be the case. The October lottery referendum was defeated following a massive grassroots effort by AFA of Alabama, churches and other pro-family groups. (See related story page 12.)

NEXT MONTH...

Look for these articles about the Disney Boycott

- A review of the controversial, anti-Christian movie **Dogma**
- A look at Disney's fourth quarter financial picture, following four consecutive quarters of net income decline
- A feature on the state of the AFA boycott of Disney on its three-year anniversary
- A sneak preview of a new AFA white paper which spells out our call to boycott the world's most famous brand.

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Instead, the couple gave the stock to American Family Association, saving \$3,960 in income tax. (They are in the 39.6% tax bracket.) They also saved the \$1,500 in capital gains tax. Their total savings: \$5,460. After-tax cost: only \$4,540.

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Yo-Yo maker yanks offensive ad following AFA efforts

The Duncan Toy Company, the largest maker and distributor of yo-yos in the U.S., pulled an objectionable ad after AFA rallied supporters to contact the company and brought the ad to the attention of retailers.

In a pre-Christmas advertising blitz designed to introduce its new "Hard-core Series" of yo-yos, Duncan began airing a television commercial which employed the repeated use of a well-known vulgar hand gesture. After 17 such motions, the announcer tags the 30-second spot with "Give us the finger, we'll give you the power."

The commercial began airing in November on the Disney-owned E! Entertainment cable channel. Despite numerous complaints, Duncan Toys President Jason Sauey initially told the online news service *WorldNetDaily* that he saw nothing wrong with the ad, and said there

were even worse things on television.

WorldNetDaily also said Duncan executive Charlie Winstrom defiantly answered an email message by saying, "We will NEVER cave to those self-righteous prudes."

AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon, however, said AFA was not being prudish, and instead called the commercial "negligent" and "irresponsible." Wildmon said, "Duncan Toys should be ashamed of themselves for legitimizing the most antagonistic and obscene symbol of our society in exchange for a few dollars profit."

After being contacted by AFA, a number of national retail store chains seemed to agree. The Toys "R" Us Company, for example, canceled in-store appearances by Duncan's "Pros on Tour" because of the ad, and also said it would no

See **YO-YO** on page 21

Boycott douses Mouse's income

■ Fourth quarter earnings are worst in Disney's history

As pro-family groups prepared to begin the fourth year of the boycott against The Walt Disney Company, that company's fiscal fourth quarter was the worst in its history, as net income plummeted 71%.

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon warned that the continuing economic sluggishness of Disney ought to wake up the entertainment giant to the concerns of families.

"When AFA began the boycott of Disney in early 1996, we said we were in this for the long haul, and Disney has been feeling the pinch for well over a year now," said Wildmon. "We applaud the endurance of the countless boycotters who have committed to sending a message to that once family-friendly company. We hope Disney is hearing us loud and clear."

The company's fourth quarter, which ended September 30, saw overall earnings decline 38%. It was the fifth straight quarterly income drop.

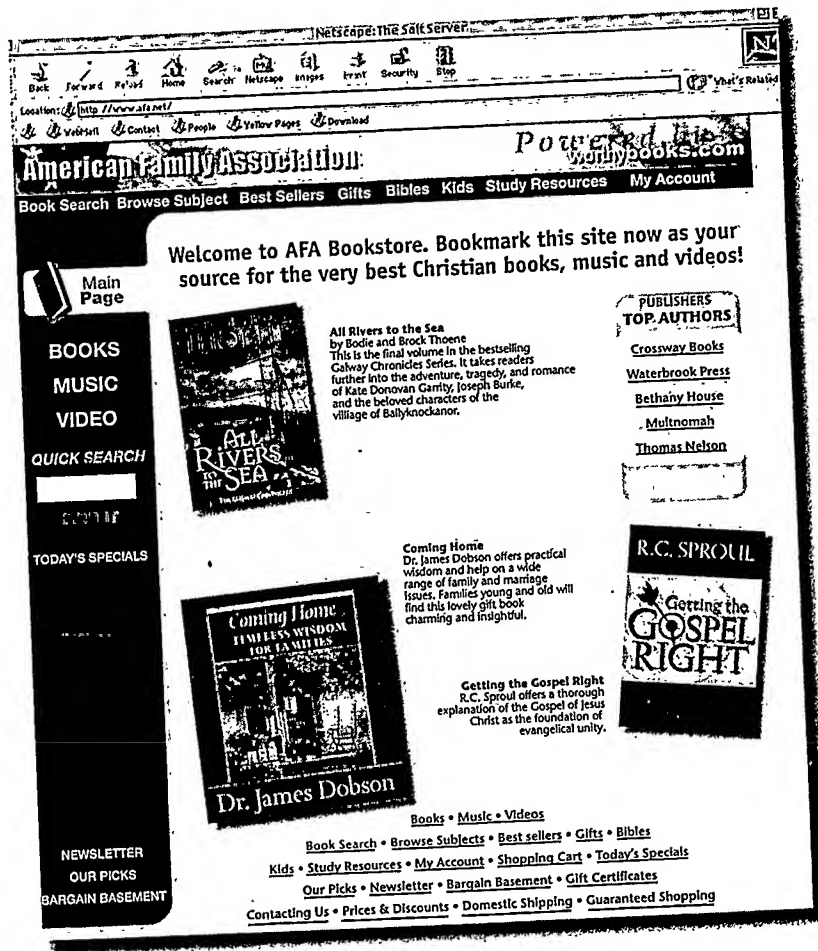
For the year, Disney's income fell 28%.

Moreover, Disney CEO Michael Eisner anticipates more of the same for fiscal year 2000, saying the company's earnings will be "in line with this year's." Disney stock dropped 14% following the sour economic news.

Wildmon noted that the income loss has been most severe in areas that would be particularly susceptible to a boycott. "Income from theatrical releases and home video sales was down 85%, and income from sales of Disney toys and merchandise was down 24%," Wildmon said. "We feel the boycott was a major contributor in those declines."

Disney's theme parks and resorts were an exception, said Wildmon, where the company saw income increase 12%. "People at this point seem a little hesitant to surrender their trip to Disney World," he said. "Still, the boycott is progressing nicely."

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AFA battles library porn

■ Michigan conflict draws national attention

It may be the shot heard throughout Cyberspace. A simple up-or-down vote on the subject of blocking access to pornography on the library computers in Holland, Michigan, is shaping up to be a conflict that may make national headlines.

The people of this town of 30,000 in western Michigan have a date with a February 22 vote, when a ballot initiative will be considered concerning a very simple question: should the Herrick District Library in Holland put filters on its computers that would bar access to sexually explicit sites? This one issue has been the flash point leading to fire-breathing editorials in the local newspaper, letters to the editor – even an endorsement of the ballot measure by Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes.

At issue is the position – some would say radical stand – of the American Library Association (ALA), a private organization that influ-

ences the policies of most public libraries in the country. The ALA has stated emphatically in its official documents that children have a right to access everything and anything in the library and on the Internet – including pornography.

AFA touched off a firestorm last fall when it began a new campaign to break the ALA's hold on the nation's public library system. (See *AFA Journal*, 9/99.) AFA produced a video about the ALA and its extremist policies entitled *Excess Access*.

In response, Irv Boss, vice president of the Holland Area Family Association – AFA's local affiliate, organized a public forum on the issue, and asked AFA of Michigan President Gary Glenn to find out what more could be done locally.

After researching state law, Glenn learned that Michigan allows local communities to filter Internet porn from their libraries as long as the action is taken by the local community, and as

See **AFA BATTLES** on page 3

Second homosexual propaganda video targets public schools

First there was the highly controversial video *It's Elementary*, intended as a primer for teachers to help them persuade children that homosexuality is normal and natural.

Now the sequel will be larger and more to the point: *That's A Family!* kicks off a three-video series that will be shown directly to children in classrooms across the country, shamelessly attempting to persuade kids that homosexuality should be accepted and affirmed.

"If principals and teachers thought *It's Elementary* was a volatile issue, wait until they see and hear what this next video series stirs up," said AFA vice president Tim Wildmon. "It's bad enough to instruct teachers on how they can force-feed little children a pro-homosexual message. Now these activists want direct access to the hearts and minds of kids who are essentially a

captive audience in their classrooms."

In a letter to supporters, *It's Elementary* producers Debra Chasnoff and Helen Cohen bragged about the "stunning" success they had in marketing their first video to schools across the country, and in convincing 115 PBS stations to air it as well.

That's A Family!, the letter said, is intended to be shown directly to children and is "the first anti-bias media curriculum available for elementary and middle school classrooms that integrates gay people into the full spectrum of diversity."

The video will present to school children a variety of families, such as adoptive, multi-racial, multi-generational, and step-families. "There also are children with gay dads or lesbian moms,

See **SECOND** on page 3

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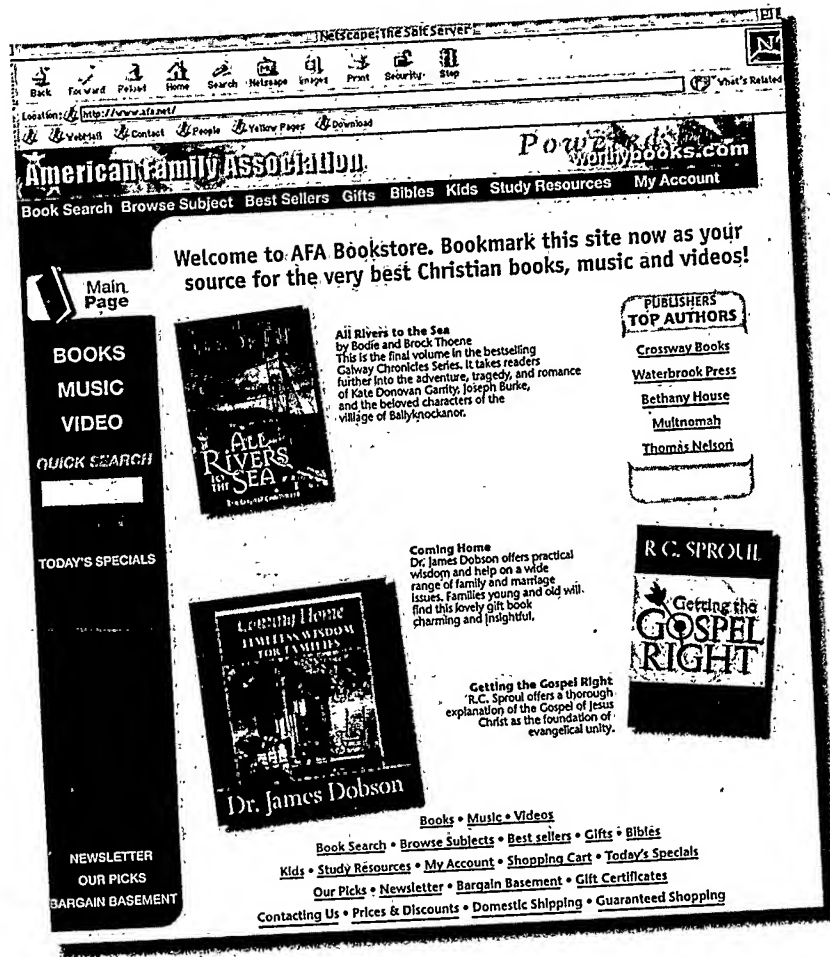
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Christians respond, FCC reverses ruling

American Family Association and the National Religious Broadcasters sounded the alarm. Concerned citizens nationwide responded by flooding lawmakers with calls protesting a recent ruling that would have limited the programming freedom of religious broadcasters.

"Only the great outrage expressed by people of religious faith and the introduction of certain-to-pass legislation by Rep. Michael Oxley (R-OH) and other members of Congress put an end to the unconstitutional actions of the FCC," said AFA President Donald E. Wildmon.

In a December 15, 1999, ruling (released on December 29), the FCC issued educational television restrictions that limited the programming freedom of religious broadcasters, but left secular broadcasters with programming discretion. The FCC disqualified church services, religious exhortation, proselytizing and statements of

personally held religious views from being treated as "educational."

"In other words, the FCC could have revoked a Christian ministry's noncommercial television license if over half its programming consisted of church services, calls to repent and follow Biblical teaching, witnessing, testimonies, and invitations to accept Christ as Savior and Lord," said Wildmon. "According to the FCC ruling, church services served neither the educational, instructional nor cultural needs of the American people — the church was considered useless to society."

The FCC has traditionally left the decision of what to broadcast and the determination of what is educational up to individual broadcasters. In their dissent to the decision, FCC Commissioners Michael Powell and Harold Furchtgott-Roth questioned the constitutionality of the govern-

See **CHRISTIANS** on page 3

AT&T targets middle schools with pro-homosexual message

This fall marked a change in the way already "gay"-friendly AT&T promotes the homosexual agenda. For the first time, the communications giant was directly targeting school children with the message that "gay is O.K."

According to the company's website, AT&T Broadband & Internet Services (BIS) partnered with the National Middle School Association (NMSA), the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, and liberal groups like the Anti-Defamation League to distribute a diversity program to middle schools nationwide.

Entitled *Opening the Door to Diversity: Voices from the Middle School*, the combination video and discussion guide program was created by AT&T BIS, and is intended to instruct teachers how they can teach diversity in the classroom. AT&T's website said every middle school in the

U.S. received five free copies of the lesson plans.

In the wake of the murder of homosexual college student Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, AT&T decided that "it should respond to the bigotry that gave rise to Shepard's death," according to the company's website.

While *Opening the Door* focuses on a number of different minority groups, it presents the politically correct view of homosexuality as well. For example, resources recommended to teachers include materials produced by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, which has worked tirelessly to pry open the doors of the nation's public schools to homosexual activists. Not a single resource espousing a different view on the subject of homosexuality is included in the resource list.

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Californians reject same-sex marriage

■ Ballot initiative win is huge for traditional marriage

Liberal enclaves like Hollywood and San Francisco, California, have often been a cultural leader in all things liberal and hedonistic. On March 7, however, the state's voters served notice that traditional marriage is in — and same-sex marriage is out.

Californians voted on controversial Proposition 22, which simply said, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." The ballot initiative passed overwhelmingly 62% to 37%, although the final numbers had yet to be tallied at press time.

The measure was placed on the March 7 ballot as a bulwark against the very real and growing danger that another state might someday

legalize homosexual marriage. Pro-family groups have been battling desperately over the last few years as Hawaii, Alaska and Vermont seemed, at different times, on the verge of authorizing same-sex marriage.

In the event that another state did legalize homosexual marriage, Prop 22 was meant to legally proscribe California from recognizing the union of any same-sex couples returning to the state.

Attacked by Hollywood celebrities and liberal ministers, the measure was supported by conservative clergy and religious denominations, GOP party leaders and the Hispanic community, which is traditionally very pro-family.

See **CALIFORNIANS** on page 3

AFA gets split decision in Michigan

■ Victory on homosexual rights, loss on library filtering

Two votes in Michigan on February 22 highlighted two key fronts in the culture war, as AFA and local citizens took on special rights for homosexuals and filters for library computers.

In Ferndale, Michigan, voters addressed a human rights ordinance which would have added "sexual orientation" to the list of groups protected from discrimination. The measure was narrowly defeated 51% to 49%.

Although such ordinances are cropping up across the nation, Christians in Ferndale were especially incensed by the lack of an exemption for churches and Christian day cares.

The national AFA office contributed substantial resources to Oakland County Residents For Equal Rights Not Special Rights, a local group that was opposing the measure. That group was working with AFA of Michigan President Gary Glenn.

"Quite literally, under this law a church could be fined for refusing to hire a homosexual pas-

tor, music director or children's church teacher," said Glenn. "It would have discriminated against Christians by repressing their First Amendment religious liberties."

Ferndale City Councilman Craig Covey, an open homosexual, stirred controversy after the vote by demonizing Christians who opposed the measure. Covey said, "This vote shows that the Christian Right is down but not out yet. We might have to drive another dagger into that vampire."

Glenn pointed out the hypocrisy of homosexual activists like Covey, who constantly berate Christians for their supposed "hate speech" when preaching about the sin of homosexuality. "To help protect Ferndale citizens from potential violence, we encourage the [pro-homosexual group] Triangle Foundation to add the word 'vampire' to its recently unveiled poster discouraging hate speech such as that by Councilman Covey," said Glenn

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Supreme Court OKs ban on public nudity

■ Sexually-oriented business wanted nude dancing legalized

In a 6-3 decision, the United States Supreme Court ruled in March that an Erie, Pennsylvania, ordinance that prohibited public nudity was constitutional. The ordinance had been challenged by an adult club which featured totally nude erotic dancing.

The Pennsylvania high court had previously ruled the ordinance unconstitutional. The Supreme Court reversed that decision, noting that "even if Erie's public nudity ban has some minimal effect on the erotic message by muting that portion of the expression that occurs when the last stitch is dropped, the dancers are free to perform wearing pasties and G-strings."

The Court reaffirmed the right of municipalities to protect public health, safety and welfare

by prohibiting conduct notorious for its harmful secondary effects, such as prostitution, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and violence. According to USA Today, some 3,000 clubs nationwide offer nude entertainment.

Brian Föhling, senior trial attorney for the American Family Association Center for Law & Policy (CLP), said the Supreme Court "reaffirmed settled principles regarding the regulation of public nudity and sexually oriented businesses by government."

Michael DePrimo, CLP litigation counsel, also saw the decision as a victory for states and local governments. "If the decision had gone the other way it would have been an unmitigated disaster for states and communities that regulate sexually oriented businesses," he said. "Instead, the Court's ruling today should motivate cities all across America to adopt similar regulations to fight the proliferation of these destructive strip clubs."

Controversial TV show cancelled

■ 'God, the Devil and Bob' falls to viewer protest

It's getting more and more rare these days, but the executives at one network actually listened to outraged viewers who complained about an offensive prime-time show.

NBC's *God, the Devil and Bob* was an animated prime-time show about a wager between God and the devil that would decide the fate of humanity. Meeting in a bar, both chose a Detroit autoworker named Bob as the man whose actions determine whether or not mankind is worth saving. The show portrayed God drinking beer buddy-buddy style with the devil; Bob was depicted as the potential Savior of man if he cleaned up his act; Elizabeth Taylor voiced a character who was to be God's girlfriend; and Bob frequently chastised God for His failures, even call-

ing Him a "deadbeat dad."

After watching the premiere episode before it aired, AFA President Donald E. Wildmon initially decided not to protest the show nationally. "The program was not only insulting to people of faith, but it was just plain stupid," he said. "We didn't want to draw attention to a show like *God, the Devil and Bob*, so instead we encouraged people to contact their NBC affiliates on an individual basis."

AFA sent out an "Action Alert" to supporters, and AFR News followed the controversy generated by *God, the Devil and Bob*. Protests from AFA supporters and others led 22 network affiliates to refuse to carry the show before NBC

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Say it loud and clear to your community. See page 16.

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CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY – Some supermarket chains including Kroger and Genuardi are helping families protect children by covering trashy magazine covers in checkout lanes and magazine racks.

Mainstream magazines ambush young readers with offensive covers

■ New AFA guide shows how to 'take out the trash'

Donna Sharp, mother of three daughters, has had enough. Like a growing number of parents across the nation, Donna is outraged at the insensitivity of supermarkets whose checkout aisles and magazine racks are full of lascivious headlines and images of scantily-clad models.

"I used to turn the magazines around so that the back cover was showing," Sharp said. "But store managers should take the initiative to respect the families that do business with them by not subjecting our children to sex magazines."

Sharp believes the message frequently delivered by magazines like *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour* and *Redbook* is degrading to women who don't look

like models. Furthermore, she says their brazen headlines are insulting to suggest that women's only obligation to men is to fulfill sexual fantasies.

In the war for women's magazine supremacy, *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour* and *Redbook* covers regularly feature headlines that many might expect to find in a porn shop, not their local supermarket. Sharp said that her children are caught in the crossfire and she doesn't like it.

AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon said, "With each new issue, some women's magazines grow closer to being the counterpart of *Playboy* and *Penthouse*. The problem is that we are all exposed to erotic headlines and salacious pictures of sensualized women."

Wildmon said that checkout lanes create a captive audience by design because shoppers are

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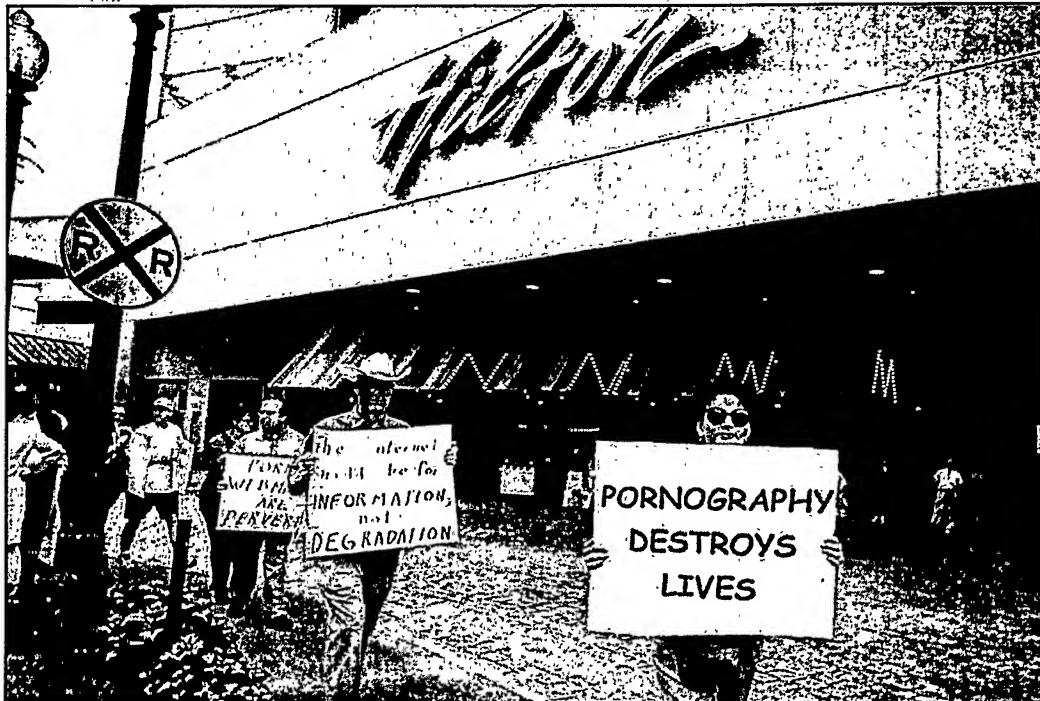
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PORN PROTEST – AFA members join with another local pro-family group, Concerned Christians for Reform, to protest a pornography convention being held at the Hilton Hotel in New Orleans.

AT&T, Hilton Hotel slink into pornography business

■ Mainstreaming of porn worrisome trend

When a city's sewer system backs up, it's bad enough. But when the filth empties out on Main Street, it's even worse. That appears to be the case with pornography, which has become a financial interest of such mainstream businesses as AT&T Corporation and the Hilton Hotel chain.

In June the news became public that AT&T had decided to carry a pay-per-view X-rated channel for its cable division. According to The Dallas Morning News, the company will carry "The Hot Network," a hard-core porn channel that other cable operators – like Time Warner Inc. and Comcast Corp. – have refused to touch.

It was one more reason for consumers to look

elsewhere for their long distance business, said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. "AT&T has long been a major promoter of the homosexual lifestyle, and now it is promoting out-and-out hard-core pornography," he said. "This is a company that has sold out families for the chance to make an illicit buck. It's time for families to shop somewhere else."

"Pornography is not a victimless pastime, and thus AT&T is not an innocent provider of a normal consumer service. Porn is destructive to the viewer, to families, and to women and children who are often devastated by the men addicted to this filth. "The company should be held accountable for its actions by the rest of us who have to live in a porn-drenched culture."

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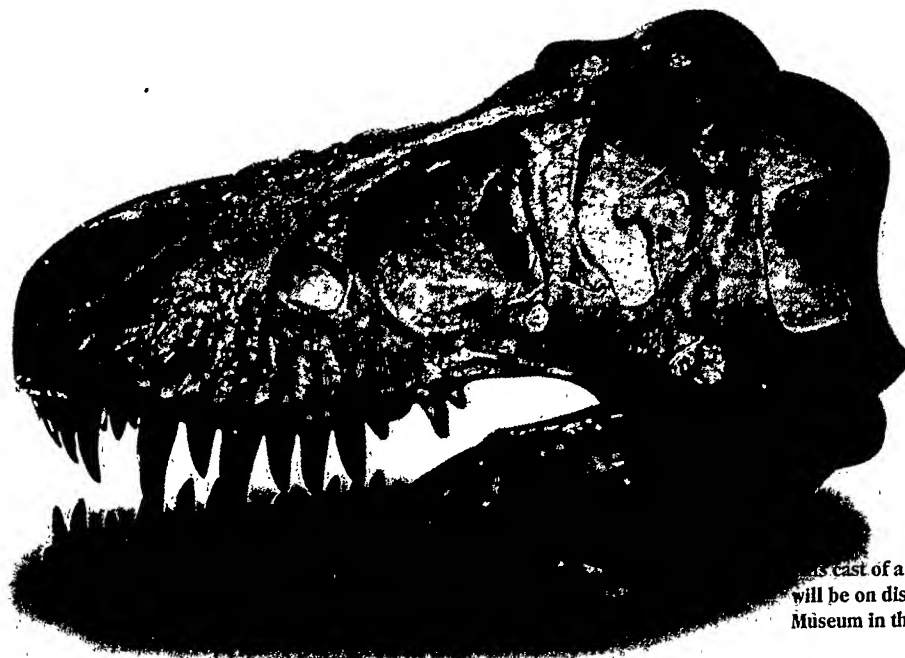
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A cast of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* skull will be on display at the future Creation Museum in the Cincinnati, Ohio area.

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"It's Not Gay" – Former homosexuals, including Michael Johnston (above), as well as health care professionals and others testify in AFA's new video about the tragic consequences of homosexuality.

New AFA video targets schools with truth about homosexuality

■ "It's Not Gay" tells a story few have heard

A new video produced by AFA promises to provide an uncompromising yet compassionate look at the tragic consequences of the homosexual lifestyle.

In the video *It's Not Gay*, former "gays" and lesbians share their experiences in the homosexual lifestyle – experiences that produced emotional pain, brokenness and physical consequences including AIDS.

In addition, the video contains interviews with mental health and medical professionals who challenge the basic tenets of the homosexual movement. (See related story on page 4.)

In a few states like Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and California, homosexual activists have been making tremendous strides within the public school system. AFA President Donald E.

Wildmon said the time has come to stand up and tell the truth in an effort to halt that progress.

"Our public schools have already been stripped of the Ten Commandments and the freedom to pray, yet flooded with the teachings of evolution and explicit sex-education curricula, which include the free distribution of condoms," said Wildmon.

"Now homosexual activists are pounding at the doors of our schools and demanding to be allowed in with their own ungodly message. The time has come to tell the unvarnished, tragic truth about the homosexual lifestyle," he said. "And *It's Not Gay* does exactly that."

Wildmon said his goal is to encourage AFA supporters to watch the video and pass it along to local school decision-makers.

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It's Not Gay

Watch this video yourself, then give it away to education policy-makers in your area.

Suggested donation: 1. for \$20; 2. for \$35; 3. for \$40; 4. for \$45; 5+ for \$10 each.

Check or money order to: "It's Not Gay," P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803
Phone orders: 1-882-844-5036

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AFA's must-see new video. See page 2 for ordering details.

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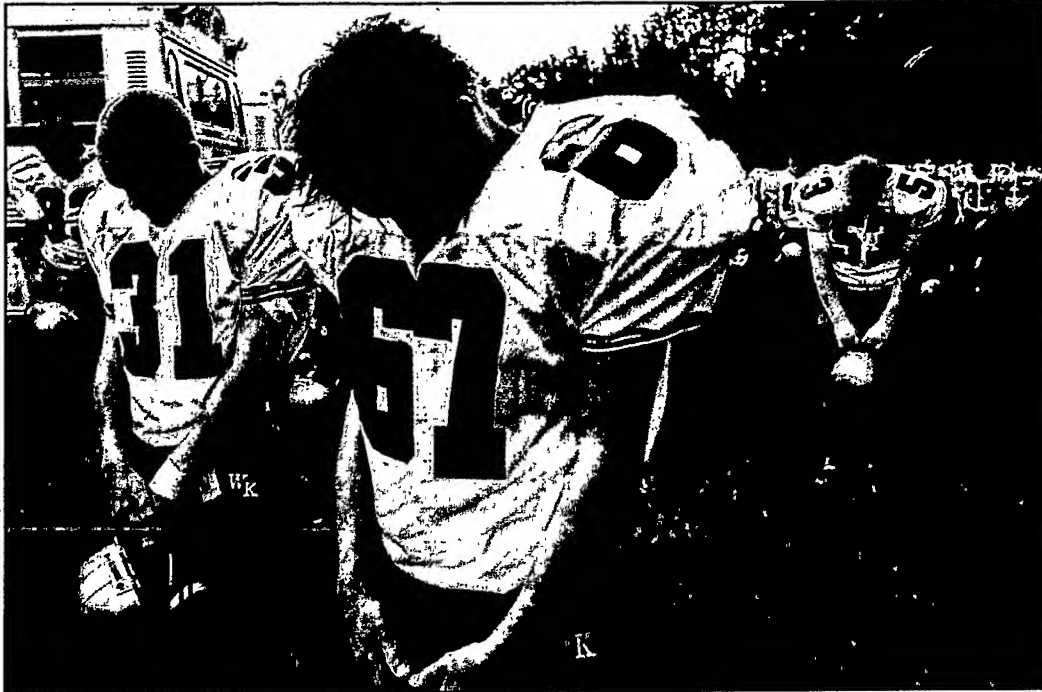
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Football players bow their heads during a prayer voiced by the student body president at a Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina, game. The South Carolina branch of the ACLU has threatened to sue in order to halt the practice. ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Christians stand firm!

■ *Many affirm freedom of religious expression by praying at high school football games*

...O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave. As students, players, parents and fans sang the "Star Spangled Banner" at season-opening football games across the nation, many may have questioned the words "land of the free." Why? Because a Supreme Court ruling, if its dictates were followed, would hinder people from participating in a tradition that has been cherished and followed for many years—organized public prayer before school sporting events.

Despite the ruling, literally thousands of people from places like Artesia, New Mexico; Asheville, North Carolina; South Point, Ohio; and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, expressed their guaranteed religious freedom by praying anyway. The methods they used were creative and di-

verse, with one of the most popular being spontaneous voicing of the Lord's Prayer right after the national anthem.

At North Hall High School in Gainesville, Georgia, spectators observed a moment of silence instead of a verbal prayer, while in Searcy, Arkansas, a nonprofit interfaith group prayed around a stadium flag pole after receiving the school board's approval.

In Hattiesburg, only a few students initially bowed their heads and began speaking the familiar words to the Lord's Prayer. But before they finished, most of the 4,500 people in the stadium were standing, openly and proudly saying the prayer in unison.

See **CHRISTIANS** on page 2

Crown of Thorns

More than just jewelry



Actual size 7 1/2" tall

Brad & Debbie Ferguson
of Samaritan Arts Jewelry
www.samaritanarts.com
©1980 by Brad Ferguson

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Lord. But without His death and resurrection, Jesus' birth would have no significance, for He was born to die.

This Christmas, to commemorate His ultimate sacrifice, AFAC offers a 14K gold Crown of Thorns pendant and 14K gold chain.

Remarkably, when centered by the Samaritan Bible League on the *Crown of Thorns* symbolizes Jesus' suffering. It contains 39 thorns, representing the 39 lashes Jesus received at His scourging. The crown's circular shape (representing the corona) intersects with its 14 points, and symbolizes the everlasting love God demonstrated by sending His Son to die for us.

The seven intersections (the Biblical number for completion) suggest the completed atonement Jesus made.

The cost per pendant is \$135.00 (a shipping charge) and includes the gold chain, velvet gift box and a card which tells the story of Jesus' atonement. Order by calling 1-800-658-6449, or online at metgo.com/samaritanarts.com. MasterCard, Visa, Discover and money order or personal check are accepted.

Give the gift of Christ's love this Christmas. Give the *Crown of Thorns*.

Half of the proceeds of this promotion will go to help fund AFAC ministry.

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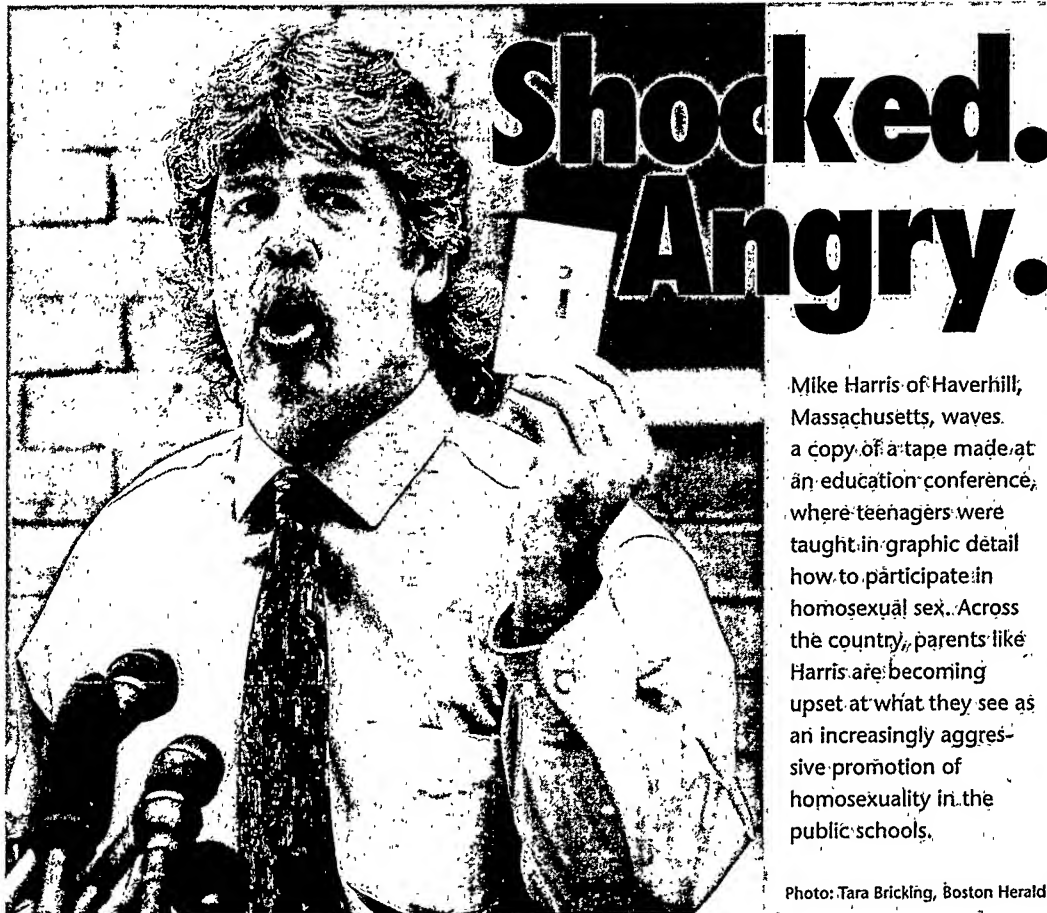
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Shocked. Angry.

Mike Harris of Haverhill, Massachusetts, waves a copy of a tape made at an education conference, where teenagers were taught in graphic detail how to participate in homosexual sex. Across the country, parents like Harris are becoming upset at what they see as an increasingly aggressive promotion of homosexuality in the public schools.

Photo: Tara Bricking, Boston Herald

Homosexual activists solidify hold on schools

Homosexual activists promised that their agenda isn't about promoting a lifestyle, and it certainly isn't about sex. In schools across the country, however, reality is beginning to make a mockery out of their rhetoric.

Since the early 1990s, activists have been arguing vehemently for access to public schools in order to make them a safer place for "gay" and lesbian students. Leading the charge is the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the nation's largest homosexual activist group that targets the public school system. Established as a national force in 1994, GLSEN now has over 85 chapters pushing the organization's agenda in communities across the country.

GLSEN's activities are predicated upon a simple claim: homosexual kids are not safe in

public schools because of the ignorance, prejudice and hatred of heterosexual classmates. The only answer, it says, is to teach everyone in the K-12 school system – administrators, teachers, and students – that homosexuality is normal, natural, and healthy. Those in public schools should be tolerant of the diversity among their members, activists insist.

From tolerance to sex?

Due in large part to GLSEN's tireless efforts, many of the nation's schoolchildren – as young as kindergarten age – are being taught to accept homosexuality as a wonderful variation within that lovely mosaic that is human sexuality. Many states have absorbed the organization's message

See **HOMOSEXUALS** on page 2



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This video could save your teenager's life.

On TV, in the movies, in the news and even in many schools, your children and grandchildren are bombarded with the message that homosexuality is normal. In some cases, teens are being encouraged to experiment with homosexual activities.

If you love your teenagers, make sure they see *It's Not Gay*. Without moralizing, without preaching, without judgmental or hateful language, *It's Not Gay* reveals the brokenness of the homosexual lifestyle – a story that is seldom portrayed in the media, but lived out daily in broken lives.

Your teens will hear from those who have lived the homosexual lifestyle – their own stories in their own words. Along with medical and mental health experts, these former homosexuals testify to the physical and emotional devastation of homosexual behavior.

Before their view is shaped by those who are promoting this tragic agenda, let your teens see the other side of the issue. It could save their lives.

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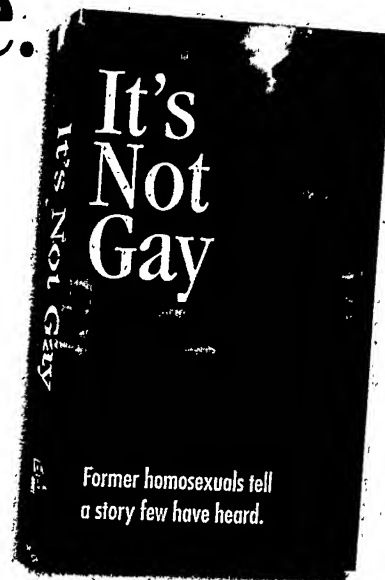
Phone: 662-844-5036, ext. 4

Mail: Complete and mail the form below to: It's Not Gay (AFA), P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803.

Include personal check, money order or credit card information.

Visa, MC, Discover cards accepted on all orders.

Suggested donation: 1 for \$25; 2 for \$35; 3 for \$40; 4 for \$45; 10-49, \$10 each. Call for larger quantity pricing.



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